

Khomeini 'wanted to kill Rushdie'

NICOSIA (R) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini wanted to kill British author Salman Rushdie personally but was prevented by old age, according to the latest edition of an Iranian magazine. "By God if I were young and had the power to move I would get out personally and kill him," the magazine quoted the Iranian spiritual leader as saying when first told of the contents of Rushdie's book "Satanic Verses." The magazine is published by clerics in the holy city of Qom. Khomeini, 84, ordered Muslims in February to seek out and kill Rushdie and his publishers for blasphemy against Islam in the book. Rushdie, born into a Muslim family in India, has been hiding under police protection since the death threat. The threat, condemned by Western countries, led to Iran cutting diplomatic ties with Britain in March. The English-language Tehran Times daily on Tuesday quoted Iranian First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Rastavari as saying the possibility of resuming ties was remote.

Jordan Times

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Mubarak, Fahd discuss summit

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed plans for an Arab summit with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in a telephone call Tuesday, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The agency gave no other details but said the two leaders also discussed the Palestinian issue and Lebanon. The Saudi monarch said his first visit to Egypt in March. King Hassan of Morocco has sent envoys to Arab capitals with invitations for a summit expected to be held in Casablanca in late May or early June. Arab leaders appear close to calling a summit meeting in Morocco which would stress Palestinian moderation and welcome Egypt back to the fold, reporters from Rabat said. The heads of state would also discuss Lebanon's intractable 14-year-old civil war in the light of success or failure for a ceasefire called by Arab League foreign ministers last week. Arab diplomatic sources say that Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, perennially at odds with Egypt, is the only leader who has not yet agreed to attend. Palestinian leaders say they are trying to win him over.

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Jordan marks anniversary of King's assumption of powers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday marked the 36th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers.

Since assuming his duties in 1953, King Hussein has been devoting his time and effort to serving his country and the Arab Nation, and his relentless endeavours have been rewarded with development and progress in Jordan.

Under the leadership of King Hussein, Jordan has won worldwide respect and now enjoys stability and security which contribute to the Kingdom's progress and development.

On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, issued a statement referring to the King's letter of designation to the new government of Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The letter, it said, represents a new determination to maintain the process of construction and to go ahead with plans to consolidate pan-Arab solidarity.

The 1987 summit in Amman paved the way for the birth of inter-Arab cooperation at all levels and the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad last February, it noted.

The creation of the ACC, Petra said, constitutes another step towards the fulfilment of the Arab Nation's aspirations. King Hussein Tuesday received cables of good wishes from Prime Minister Sharif Zaid, Cabinet members, senior government officials and directors of public organisations in Jordan. The cables expressed the Jordanian people's support for King Hussein and his relentless endeavours to serve his nation, and reaffirmed confidence in the King's leadership that would enable the country to overcome the present economic situation.



HM King Hussein

King performs pilgrimage

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Tuesday began a visit to Saudi Arabia and performed the Umra pilgrimage.

The King was also expected to hold talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on bilateral relations and the situation in Jordan in the wake of the recent disturbances in the Kingdom sparked by economic austerity measures.

King Hussein's talks with the Saudi leaders are also expected to cover the latest developments in the Middle East and efforts for peace in the region as well as the outcome of his recent visits to France and the United States.

A senior Jordanian government official quoted by AP said King Hussein would brief the Saudi monarch on the situation in Jordan following the mid-April riots in some parts of the Kingdom.

King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia comes amid reports that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

countries were discussing additional aid to the Kingdom.

The King has said that the failure of some Arab states to fulfil their financial commitment to Jordan under the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit resolutions was behind the economic problems that Jordan faces today.

Saudi Arabia is the only Arab country to have met its commitment of paying approximately \$357 million to Jordan every year for the past 10 years. Under the Baghdad summit resolutions, Jordan is to receive an annual Arab aid of \$1.25 billion for 10 years.

Accompanying King Hussein on his trip to Saudi Arabia are His Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Prince Faisal, Deputy Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Thou-

qan Al Hindawi, King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and a number of diplomats and senior officials.

The King's visit to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage falls on the eve of Leilat Al Kadr, the day in the Holy Month of Ramadan when the Holy Koran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammad.

The King's trip to Saudi Arabia follows a visit to Jordan by the Kuwaiti prime minister and crown prince, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Monday.

The King briefed Sheikh Saad on the circumstances surrounding the unrest that hit the Kingdom recently. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Sheikh Saad had conveyed to the King the greetings of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Sheikh Saad reiterated his country's full support for Jordan, saying Jordan's security and stability was part of Kuwait's security and stability.

Attending the King's meeting with Sheikh Saad were His Royal

Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zaid. On the Kuwaiti side the audience was attended by Justice Minister Dari Abdullah Al Uthman, Deputy Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Majid Al Shahin, the chief of the Emir court and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan. The King also held a closed meeting with Sheikh Saad.

In an arrival statement, Sheikh Saad expressed happiness at visiting Jordan, saying that his visit embodied the strong brotherly relations between Jordan and Kuwait. He added that the Kuwaiti people appreciates Jordan's true stands and its unique role in serving pan-Arab causes. He said the Kuwaiti people had followed up with concern the recent events which took place in some parts of Jordan, "and I found it incumbent on me to come to Jordan to express the brotherly relations and the distinguished ties between Jordan and Kuwait and to voice Kuwait's full support for Jordan, which has always stood by all Arab brothers."

Amman, Moscow to boost contacts to help Middle East peace efforts

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Soviet Union have agreed to step up the level of bilateral contacts to strengthen the overall effort to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yanadi Tarasov said Tuesday.

"It appears (from discussions with Jordanian officials) that Jordan and the Soviet Union have a

common stand on the peace process," Tarasov said at a press conference held at Queen Alia International Airport shortly before his departure from Amman. "Our views are similar... congruent, and we have agreed on the necessity to continue the ongoing talks and consultations between the two countries," he added.

Tarasov's visit comes in the context of stepped up Soviet-Jordanian contacts aimed at settling the Middle East conflict.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Amman February with what was seen as a new Soviet diplomatic push for peace in the region. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Garasimov paid a several-day visit to Jordan last week during which he held talks with senior Jordanian officials on ways of improving Jordanian-Soviet relations.

Tarasov said the discussed with Jordanian officials the latest contacts that Moscow and Amman

had been making in preparations for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

During his several-day visit to Jordan, Tarasov was received by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

Both Jordan and the Soviet Union, Tarasov said, agree that

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Israelis use Arab boy as human shield

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops patrolling the occupied West Bank Tuesday forced a young Palestinian to sit on the front of their jeep, apparently as a human shield to deter stone-throwing Palestinian demonstrators.

Elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 10 Palestinians were injured in clashes with troops, among them a seven-year-old girl critically injured in the head and a 90-year-old man shot in the face with a rubber bullet.

The human-shield incident in Ramallah, filmed by the television agency Visnews, showed a jeep with three soldiers in full riot gear shoot rubber bullets towards stone-throwers in the town centre.

The film showed the troops driving through Ramallah with a frightened-looking Palestinian teenager sitting on the jeep's bonnet.

Reporters monitoring army radios in the area told Reuters they heard a soldier say: "It's okay now, we have a kid on the front of the jeep, we won't get stoned."

Palestinians have in the past accused Israel of using children as shields against stone-throwers.

In the Gaza Strip, troops clashed with stone-throwing protesters throughout the territory and shot and wounded four people, among them the seven-year-old girl, hospital sources said.

The sources said 12 Palestinians — including two seven-year-old children in Beit Hanoun

— were treated after troops beat them with clubs and rifle butts. During a clash in Nablus in the West Bank, troops shot and wounded five Palestinians, hospital officials there reported.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem, some 3,000 police braced for Leilat El Kadr, the Muslim night of prayers marking the reception of the Holy Koran by the Prophet Mohammad. The main prayer takes place at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City.

Police imposed severe restrictions on worshippers, and officers at the entrances to Jerusalem turned back young Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Israel Radio said only 10,000 worshippers were expected to attend prayers at Al Aqsa, com-

pared with up to 50,000 in previous years.

The underground leadership of the Islamic resistance movement known as Hamas said Tuesday that a holy war was the only way to combat Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"While the Arab leadership is moving towards peaceful solutions, the enemy's leadership is rejecting publicly all talks and increases its repression... the only effective means against the occupation is Jihad (holy war)," it said.

Hamas, in its statement number 41, sent to Reuters in Nicosia, also called for three general strikes this month in the occupied territories.

Mauritanian-Senegalese airlift continues non-stop

NOUAKCHOTT (Agencies) — Troops fired rounds of tear-gas Tuesday to disperse crowds of Mauritians trying to learn the fate of their countrymen fleeing ethnic riots in neighbouring Senegal, eyewitnesses said.

Groups of anxious relatives who had gathered outside the capital's football stadium, where thousands of refugees have been lodged temporarily, had ignored warnings from the army and refused to disperse, the eyewitnesses, quoted by Reuters said.

"Order must be maintained whatever the price," said a government spokesman, adding that reabsorbing about 300,000

Mauritians working in Senegal would be a major problem.

Meanwhile, thousands more frightened Senegalese waited at Nouakchott airport to be flown home in an international airlift spearheaded by France, Morocco and Spain.

Small children clutching their toys waited among the long lines for a place on the non-stop shuttle service between the two countries, and babies' screams pierced the air.

Clothes and other personal items lay in ceiling-high piles in the departure lounge. Witnesses said the fleeing refugees were allowed to take only the clothes

they were wearing.

Informed sources told Reuters some 10,000 Senegalese had now left Mauritania, but many more were arriving in Nouakchott from the city of Nouadhibou, the main commercial centre.

Unconfirmed reports say as many as 400 Senegalese died last week in racial violence sparked by a minor border dispute.

Revenge attacks followed in the Senegalese capital Dakar, where groups of youths rampaged and looted, killing at least 56 Mauritians.

States of emergency and curfews were in effect in both Dakar and Nouakchott.



A Senegalese soldier searches through the hair of a Mauritanian woman before being taken from the fair trade centre outside Dakar.

Shelling duels shake Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Artillery battles raged southeast of Beirut Tuesday, doing fresh damage to attempts to solve Lebanon's crisis through Arab diplomacy.

Security sources said troops loyal to military commander Michel Aoun traded artillery, rocket and mortar barrages with Syrian forces and their Lebanese militia allies across the mountain ridge of Souq Al Ghareb.

Hours earlier Aoun expressed willingness to give diplomacy a chance but said that unless it led to the withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops, war would continue.

In Kuwait, the head of an Arab League committee trying to achieve a Lebanese settlement said a plan to deploy Arab ceasefire observers could be implemented only if the guns fell silent.

"We are not prepared to sacrifice any Arab under shelling and the exchange of gunfire," Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah said.

The league called for a ceasefire from noon last Friday but sporadic fighting has continued, albeit with less intensity than the artillery duels of March and April.

The "Voice of Lebanon" radio station said shells crashed into the Yarzeh and Baabda suburbs of Beirut Tuesday.

Militia sources said scores of shells slammed into villages in hills overlooking Beirut. The thud of the artillery battles was heard in the capital.

Two Arab League mediators entrusted with arranging a ceasefire in Lebanon will head for Beirut Wednesday, one of them

said Tuesday. Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassam, also told Reuters that he and Lakhdar Brahimi, representative of Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kilihi, had started contacts to prepare for their mission.

Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus Monday and the two men will travel to Beirut Wednesday, he said.

The two mediators are due to arrange the deployment of an Arab ceasefire monitoring team. They will also try to implement the Arab League decision to end blockades of all ports and airports and to reopen crossing points in divided Beirut.

Aoun said earlier Tuesday he would consider lifting a blockade of ports run by militias in a move that could halt the fighting.

Aoun made the offer during a news conference at the presidential palace in east Beirut's Baabda suburb as the shelling duels continued.

Police said two people were killed and eight wounded, raising the overall casualty toll to 278 people killed and 1,010 wounded since the current fighting erupted March 8.

Queried on the blockade of the three ports by militias south of Beirut, Aoun said it "could be suspended... all this awaits the talks tomorrow" with the Arab League envoys due to arrive from Syria.

In Damascus, diplomatic sources said the Syrian government told the Arab League representatives that the fighting would persist until Aoun lifted the port blockades.

World leaders plan summit on 'silent emergency'

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Leaders of at least 40 countries have rallied behind a call for an international summit to discuss the "silent emergency" of the plight of children — 40,000 of them dying every day from easily preventable diseases despite great medical advances.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the initiator of the proposal for world leaders to meet and adopt action to address the worsening situation, hopes that the summit could be convened in the next nine months to coincide with the culmination of the ongoing UNICEF campaign of "universal immunisation by

1990," UNICEF Regional Director Richard Reid said Tuesday.

UNICEF's considerations behind its proposal are as much humanitarian as economic. Reid said, pointing out that economic hardships had resulted in many countries backtracking on their process of child care and protection.

"The plight of these children is already handicapping the futures and economies of many developing countries because so few of their kids have a chance to grow up with anything near their physical or intellectual potential, thus condemning many developing countries if it continues to perpetuate a cycle of poverty," Reid said in an interview with

the Jordan Times.

Reid pointed out that most of the developing countries do not have the mineral resources that the developing countries do, so they must concentrate on developing their human resources like Japan and other North-East Asian countries. "For all the children that die, there is an equal number that survives but come out retarded, 'the polish, the edge' taken off their potential," he said. "If these problems continue in the developing countries, this will destabilise the global economy," he added, pointing out that countries are so interdependent that "this is not a problem that can be tackled nationally; it has to be tackled internationally."

Reid underpinned the irony inherent in the "silent emergency" facing children today. It indeed is one of the arguments raised by UNICEF since its inception. "The death daily of 40,000 children do not hit the headlines like (last year's devastating earthquakes in) Soviet Armenia," Reid said. In the same vein, a plane crash or some other disaster automatically assumes high priority for the international news media, notwithstanding the fact that the massive death of children in any disaster involving loss of life. "We feel that this should be ethically unacceptable, just as racism, slavery, and the despoila-

tion of the environment," emphasised the UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

The agenda of the proposed international summit will be a broad one focusing on immunisation, early childhood stimulation, basic education, fortified nutrition for mothers and children, water and sanitation.

Reid noted that in some parts of the world, children's condition has worsened over the past ten years. "All of the basic indicators — not just economic ones but social indicators — of children's health and education, are not nearly as good now as they were even in the 1960s," he said.

"The number of (school-age)

children who should be in school is declining steadily; the number of babies who are born underweight is increasing; the number of families whose real income is declining is on the rise, especially in Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean," Reid said. "There are many indicators that show that we are in a sharp critical emergency phase in the world, and something needs to be done to catch this before it becomes self-perpetuating."

"To immunise a child for all the preventable diseases, it costs less than \$3 per child. This figure, Reid said, will not be a burden to any country, given the international assistance available. "To immunise

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Maksoud assails U.S. threat to WHO

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Arab League's U.S. representative has denounced Secretary of State James Baker's threat to seek an end to U.S. payments to the World Health Organisation (WHO) if it admits the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a full member.

"The threat to make no further contributions, voluntary or assessed" might be the language of a big power, but not the language of a great power," the Arab League official, Clavis Maksoud, said in a statement.

He said inclusion of the PLO in WHO would allow Palestinians to benefit from the international agency and contribute to WHO's universality.

Baker said earlier that such PLO admission would politicise the WHO and hurt the Middle East peace process. He said he would recommend an end to U.S. contributions to WHO or any other U.N. agency that made the PLO a full member.

A vote on the PLO application for WHO membership is expected next week.

U.S. officials worry that WHO's approval would be tacit recognition of the PLO's declaration of a Palestinian state and would hurt U.S. efforts to revive Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"We have worked and will continue to work to convince others of the harm that the PLO's admission would cause to the

Middle East peace process and to the U.N. system," Baker said.

But Maksoud stated: "Saying that the PLO admission to WHO would cause damage to the Middle East peace process is truly beyond comprehension. It is making, perhaps unwittingly, the peace process hostage to the most intransigent of Israeli policies."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the annual U.S. contribution is 25 per cent of WHO's budget, or \$73.8 million. All of that is paid in the agency's fourth quarter, meaning all of this year's U.S. aid would be in jeopardy.

The head of the WHO, Japanese physician Hiroshi Nakajima, was reported to be flying to Washington Monday to try to head off a confrontation with the United States.

Senior U.S. official said Baker went public with the threat only after private consultations, including a meeting last week with an Arab League delegation, failed to resolve the situation.

Tutwiler said Nakajima would not meet Baker but might meet Tuesday with another U.S. official, whom she did not identify.

There was speculation Nakajima would cancel any meeting after Baker went public with his threat to cut aid.

In an interview with the New York Times from Geneva, Nakajima said he tried in vain to persuade PLO Chairman Yasser



Clavis Maksoud

Arafat to withdraw the membership application.

He told the newspaper Arafat warned him that if the PLO was not admitted to the WHO, the PLO would seek to have Israel suspended from the International Telecommunications Union when that group's governing body meets later this month.

Israel said Monday, the PLO sought admission to WHO with a map showing its self-declared state covering all Israel and the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Spokesman Motti Amichai said Israel told several WHO members about the letter from Arafat as part of its protest at the application.

"The letter contains their logo. It appears the map of what they call Palestine, which includes all of Israel with the territories, which is just an indication as to what they mean when they say Palestine," Amichai told Reuters.

Mahdi pledges positive response to SPLA truce

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government will respond positively to a month-long ceasefire declared by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi was quoted Tuesday as saying.

"For every one step taken by the SPLA, we will reciprocate by taking two steps," Sadeq Al Mahdi was quoted as saying after hearing of the surprise rebel announcement Monday.

The SPLA, which has been fighting government forces in south Sudan since 1983, said the ceasefire would usher in a new era of peace in the country.

The rebels want to end what they see as the domination of the north over the south. Part of a peace plan approved by the government includes a freeze on harsh Islamic laws.

Several countries have urged the government and the SPLA to stop fighting so that emergency food aid can reach areas of south Sudan where famine threatens tens of thousands of people.

"Nobody wants war," Mahdi told the newspaper. "We are committed to peace not only in Sudan but also in the whole of the Horn of Africa."

He said his troops would observe the ceasefire but would remain vigilant.

During the ceasefire, the SPLA said, government forces and guerrillas would remain in the field.

"I call upon... those at the national level to take advantage of the one-month ceasefire to make their views known to the

movement (SPLA) and to enter into discussions with us," SPLA leader Colonel John Garang said in a statement.

Garang's statement, read out in a Radio SPLA broadcast, said the ceasefire had been declared to usher in a new era of peace and prosperity to impoverished Sudan, Africa's largest country.

He told government troops in rebel-besieged towns of Juba, Malakal and Wau not to move out or seek fresh arms supplies during the truce as these would be seen as hostile acts.

But he said food and medicines would be allowed in.

Last November the SPLA signed a peace accord with Mahdi's junior coalition partner, the Democratic Unionist Party.

The pact called for a halt to implementation of tough Islamic laws hated by southerners, for abrogation of Sudan's military pact with Libya and Egypt and for a national constitutional conference to map out the future of the country.

At the time, Mahdi rejected the peace agreement, but he accepted it earlier this year in the face of an ultimatum from army chiefs who expressed frustration at the war that has killed tens of thousands of people and sent more than 500,000 others fleeing into neighbouring states as refugees.

Attack on food convoy

The United Nations said Monday it had suspended movement of food aid by road from Kenya to southern Sudan after unknown gunmen attacked a convoy for the second time in two weeks.

Paul Mitchell, head of the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) in Nairobi, told Reuters that no one was injured in the attack Saturday near the Sudanese town of Kapoeta.

The 29-truck convoy, carrying 300 tonnes of food from the Kenyan border town of Lokichokio, continued its journey and reached Torit, a rebel-held town 150 kilometres west of Kapoeta, he said.

On April 18, gunmen attacked another WFP food aid convoy on the same route, killing eight people.

Mitchell declined to say who could have attacked the convoy. Some aid workers blamed the first ambush on local tribesmen opposed to the SPLA rebels.

Mitchell said the WFP had moved 2,000 tonnes of food aid to Torit in the past two weeks by road or air.

"This is more than we had hoped to have moved by now and so the town has enough food," he said.

"Because of this and the continuing insecurity of the Lokichokio-Kapoeta-Torit route, we have for the time being suspended our convoys. This does not mean that we cannot use the route at some later stage."

Mitchell said movement of relief supplies to southern Sudan by air and road would continue from Uganda.

Shamir names elections team; active U.S. involvement sought

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has appointed a team to work out details of his Palestinian elections proposal, and one issue on its agenda is active U.S. involvement in supervising the balloting, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Seeking to quell the 16-month Palestinian uprising, Shamir has proposed elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and talks with elected Palestinians on limited autonomy.

On Tuesday, Shamir spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said the premier has appointed a team to work out a blueprint for elections. Similar teams have been set at the foreign and defence ministries, officials said.

He said the team is headed by top Shamir aide Yossi Ben-Aharon and includes cabinet secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, former military government head in the occupied lands Menachem Milson, adviser Yigal Karmon and two officials who participated in talks on Palestinian autonomy with Egypt in 1979-1981. Those negotiations collapsed.

Ahimeir said detailed recommendations on the advantages

and disadvantages of various tactics would be brought to a ministerial committee, which would submit a final plan for a cabinet approval.

The daily Jerusalem Post reported the guidelines were expected to recommend balloting to choose political representatives, rather than municipal elections. But Ahimeir said the direction has not been decided yet.

He said, however, that one idea under discussion was some form of active American participation in supervising the elections. Palestinians have ruled out elections under occupation, demanding an international supervision and Israeli withdrawal.

"I think that U.S. participation and help can be considered," Ahimeir said in an interview. "We are always ready to be assisted by the United States which is genuinely interested in achieving peace in the area and enjoys the trust of both sides."

Israeli news reports said the blueprint would be presented to U.S. officials by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who is due to visit Washington in three weeks.

But a foreign ministry official

said experts are not expected to devise any proposals in such a short time, and suggested that Rabin bring recommendations of the defence ministry team only.

Sharon call

Israel must crush the Palestinian uprising before holding polls in the occupied territories so as to avoid the election of "terrorists," hawkish Trade Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday.

"Elections in the territories that will select those leading the violence and terror will only give them legitimacy, not only with us but also with the world," Sharon told army radio.

"The first thing that must be done is to restore the quiet and security of Israel, not only to protect Jewish lives, which in my eyes has the greatest value, but also to advance the political process," he said.

Sharon, 61, a former defence minister who led Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, declined to criticise Shamir for proposing the polls.

Senior PLO official shot in head in South Lebanon

SIDON (AP) — The senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official in Lebanon was in critical condition undergoing surgery after being shot Tuesday in this southern port, police said.

In Paris, where PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was on an official visit, PLO officials said Issam Salem was killed in the shooting.

Salem, Arafat's personal representative in Lebanon, was driving through Sidon's Fakhreddin street when masked gunmen raked his car with gunfire at 1:05 p.m. (1:05 GMT), a police spokesman said.

"Salem is wounded in the head. He is undergoing surgery, but his chances of survival are

very slim, said the spokesman. Salem was rushed by aides to Sidon's Hammoud hospital after the shooting, the spokesman added.

He said police had no clue to the identity or motive of the assailants.

Salem was the second high-ranking Arafat aide to be the target of assassination within four days in Sidon, Lebanon's third largest city 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Zeid Wehhi, the official spokesman of the PLO's mainstream Fateh guerrilla faction in Lebanon, escaped assassination Saturday, when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at his Sidon house. He was not at home

at the time. Two passers-by were wounded by bomb shrapnel, according to police.

In Paris, where Arafat met with French President Francois Mitterrand, a PLO official said Salem died in the attack and that Arafat had been informed.

"Mr. Arafat knows. We informed him," said Al Hassan Riyad. "At present it is difficult for him to make a statement and he will say something later at his news conference."

Mustafa Saad, head of the Nasrallah militia that has ruled Sidon since the outbreak of Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war in 1975, told the Associated Press that Salem's condition was "very critical."

World leaders plan summit

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all the children of the world, it would cost less than one high-performance fighter bomber, less than the one month paper-and-pencil budget of some so-called defence ministries of the world. So this is not an economic burden on the developing countries; it is a high-value investment," he stressed.

Reid said the idea of an international summit on the issue has been "cooking" for approximately six months. Many heads of state and governments have already signed on to the idea. The list includes Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Suharto of Indonesia.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has also indicated interest in the world summit and called the meeting inevitable, according to Reid.

According to Reid, UNICEF does not hope to bring together all the leaders of the 159 members of the U.N. General Assembly to the proposed summit. Rather, it prefers to have 40 to 50 heads of state representing the diverse geographic, demographic, economic and political backgrounds of various countries, bound together for a common cause.

In its campaign to protect the world's children, UNICEF has "reached the unreachable" in many parts of the world and the direct involvement of the head of state in the national effort has always produced higher than expected results in the respective countries, Reid said. That is precisely the reason behind UNICEF's accelerated moves to convene the "world summit" with the hope that its experience with individual countries could be repeated in a collective sense.

Amman, Moscow to boost contacts

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the basis for peace in the region should be Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and internationally guaranteed security for all states in the region.

Tarasov said the process of convening an international conference required an a priori agreement from all sides on the legal basis of such a conference. Those, he said, were matters to be discussed by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and parties directly involved in the conflict.

The Soviet official said the resumption of Soviet-Israeli relations was contingent on Israel's adoption of a constructive position on the peace conference.

"We have said publicly that the Soviet Union will be prepared to raise the issue of establishing relations with Israel at the start of the international peace conference and when Israel takes a constructive position on the convening of the conference," he said. "This remains our basic policy."

In response to a question on whether there was a "gentlemen's agreement" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to settle regional conflicts, Tarasov said, "The Middle East conflict, Tarasov said, will be one of the major issues discussed during a meeting between Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Moscow later this month.

Tarasov said Moscow welcomed the recent "positive indications" of improvement in relations between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"It has been our long-standing

policy to talk to the Palestinians and the Syrians to persuade them that they have nothing to lose but much to gain from normalisation of relations between them."

Asked how instrumental Moscow was in bringing about these positive indications, Tarasov said: "One should be modest in assessing one's own accomplishments."

The deputy foreign minister appeared not to approve of the way in which the plan of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was presented.

"It is not clear why these elections (were proposed)... and what bearing they have on a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem... what the guarantees there would be for these results and what role the PLO (is to play)," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak orders 'copter's return to Libya

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has ordered the return of a helicopter gunship to Libya after it was flown to Egypt by a defecting Libyan pilot, the semi-official daily Al-Ahram reported Tuesday. Major Fathi Malyoud Al-Sagheer landed his Mi-24 in southern Egypt near Aswan last Wednesday and asked for political asylum. His request is being considered. "We will return the helicopter but this should be preceded by several legal procedures," Al-Ahram quoted Mubarak as saying. The newspaper did not say what the procedures were. Security sources say the pilot had told the Egyptians that the Soviet-built helicopter belonged to the Libyan army. Sudanese Defence Minister Mubarak Osman Rahma was quoted by a Khartoum newspaper as saying the helicopter was Sudanese, and demanding its return. Libyan air force units have been operating in southern Sudan against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. Cairo's Al-Ahram newspaper said Tuesday that Libya had asked Sudan to pretend it owned the helicopter in order to get it back.

Kurdish rebels kill five in ambush

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels shot dead four soldiers and a civilian in an ambush in Sirt province in southeastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted officials Tuesday as saying. The officials said a group of rebels from the outlawed Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) stopped a minibus near Erzurum Monday night and shot four para-military gendarmes and a local man who were on board. The gendarmes were returning to their units from home leave. More than 1,300 people have been killed in southern Turkey since the PKK launched a guerrilla war in 1984 to win autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

Paper: Khamenei, Rafsanjani fit to succeed Khomeini

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper named President Ali Khamenei for the first time Monday as a possible successor to supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The English-language Tehran Times, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, said Khamenei, 49, and Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani were both qualified to take over from Khomeini. Khamenei, a long-time aide to Khomeini, has served as president since 1981. Khomeini, 86, year called him "a mighty arm of the Islamic revolution." It was not clear from the IRNA report, received in Nicosia, whether Tehran Times was recommending Rafsanjani and Khamenei as individual leaders or as members of a leadership council. Eftekhari newspaper said last week Rafsanjani should be a member of a leadership council and have the deciding vote.

Polisario leaders reelected

ALGIERS (R) — Leaders of the Polisario Front, fighting Morocco for the independence of Western Sahara, were reelected at a congress held near the Algerian oasis town of Tindouf, the Algerian news agency APS reported. It said all members of the executive committee and "practically all" 27 members of the politburo retained their posts. Secretary-General Mohammed Abdul Aziz had hinted in a report to the congress that some politburo members might be sacked, saying that certain guerrilla leaders were "quarrelling among themselves and losing touch with the people," APS said. The official agency also quoted Polisario sources as saying that "prospects of a second meeting with King Hassan II within a reasonable time are good." Polisario leaders had complained that the Moroccan monarch had not invited them to a second round of direct talks after meetings held in Morocco in January. They threatened to resume fighting in the former Spanish colony unless the king agreed to talks to settle details of a United Nations plan to resolve the conflict through a referendum on self-determination.

Quake hits southwestern Greece

ATHENS (AP) — A sharp earthquake jolted southwestern Greece early Tuesday but no injuries or serious damage was reported. The Athens seismological service said the sharp tremor which touched 5.3 on the open-ended Richter scale, hit at 12:03 a.m. (21:03 GMT) when most residents in the area were at home. Its epicenter was in the sea, 230 kilometres southwest of the Greek capital, off the western coast of the Peloponnese.

Egypt temporarily opens border with Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has temporarily opened its border with Libya to allow thousands of Egyptian workers to return home for the 'Eid al-Fitr holiday this week, a government source said Tuesday. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry denied that the border was open, but the source said it was opened late last week. The move is to facilitate the movement of Egyptian workers wanting to come home for 'Eid, which will be next weekend, the source said. He said Cairo has opened its Libyan frontier posts during national vacation times for the last two years to allow Egyptians to come home. Tens of thousands of Egyptians work in Libya despite the lack of diplomatic relations and the general hostility between the two countries. Direct air links are cut.

British Jumbo in Gulf near-miss

LONDON (R) — A British Airways Boeing 747 responding to a U.S. warship's final warning in the Gulf last year nearly collided with another airliner, a British newspaper reported Tuesday. The Independent, quoting an unpublished International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) report, said the plane narrowly escaped being shot at a month before the USS Vincennes shot down an Iran Air Airbus in July. The newspaper said the 747 was approaching Dubai on a flight to India when it picked up by chance a U.S. warship's radio challenge almost identical to the final one received by the Iranian plane before it was shot down by surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 on board. The warship issuing the warning was not identified. "In attempting to take avoiding action to prevent the warship carrying out its threat, the BA flight had a near-miss with a Bulgarian airliner," the Independent said. "Prompt action by Dubai approach prevented BA147 from changing its course and thus avoided a potential mid-air collision with flight LZ2101 (A Bulgarian Antonov 12) from Bahrain to Sharjah," it quoted the ICAO report as saying.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Kuran
14:50 Programme review
14:55 Children's programmes
15:15 Cooking programme
16:15 Arabic series
16:30 Programme on living
17:15 Religious period
18:20 News in Arabic
18:30 Arabic series
20:10 Programme review
21:40 Religious series
22:25 Varieties
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:15 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 'Anjoud' but on Jordan
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Documentary
21:10 News in English
22:00 News in English
22:25 My Favourite Son

PRAYER TIMES

03:18 Fajr
04:44 Sunrise/Duha
11:33 Dhuhur
15:12 'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624540
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Saule Church Tel. 661757
Ternassia Church Tel. 622466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 665326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811275
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
It will be fair with the appearance of

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

some clouds at different altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh at times. In Aqaba, it will be hazy with northerly fresh winds and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
13/25
Aqaba 20/31
Deserts 15/29
Jordan Valley 17/33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Fakher Balbasi 625778
Dr. Tayseer Khader 608577
Dr. Abbas Hakim 891256
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asena pharmacy 637655
Ferdows pharmacy 776336
Al Asena pharmacy 623672
Nalroukh pharmacy 626720
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
JRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr 19852381
Al Sharau pharmacy 19852381
ZARQA:
Dr. Bassam Safarini 985417
Khalilch pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 627777
Fire Brigade 620909/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 656390/91
Public Security Department 650000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605000
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage 874467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 650000
Directorate assistance 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111
Radio Jordan 660100
Water Authority 660100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Muasher Hospital 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 623262
Malhas, J. Amman 636141
Palestine, Shmeisani 661714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 662279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/66
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Amal Hospital 662340/50
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
JRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital 012125555
Greek Catholic Hospital 012127273
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 0121247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53305, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Jeddah (RJ)
10:25 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:00 Riyadh (RJ)
17:05 Paris (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
19:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
00:20 Baghdad (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:35 Cairo (MS)

10:40 Rymc (AZ)
12:00 Benghazi (LN)
12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (YI)
12:15 Baghdad (RI)
13:30 Kuwait (KU)
14:10 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
16:25 Jeddah (SV)
18:25 Frankfurt (LH)
20:05 Tripoli, Damascus (PK)
23:55 Tunis (TU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
08:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:30 Riyadh (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
19:15 Calcutta (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20

Prince Hassan outlines Jordan's policies to Austrian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Tuesday with a visiting Austrian journalists delegation. The Prince reviewed with the delegation the latest developments in the local and regional fields and outlined the country's economic crisis. Prince Hassan told the delegation he was certain the country will overcome the

present difficulties by adopting wise and sound policies in conformity to directives laid down by His Majesty King Hussein in his letter of designation to the new government and in cooperation with the people of Jordan and support from Arab countries.

Prince Hassan reviewed the outcome of King Hussein's recent visit to the United States and

expressed his belief that the U.S. administration will move ahead with plans to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East. The United States, through its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, is bound to find a way to resolve the Palestine problem, the Crown Prince asserted.



Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali Monday addresses an Austrian journalists delegation currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo)

Majali briefs Austrian journalists

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of Austrian journalists had a meeting here Tuesday with Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali who briefed them on developments in Jordan and praised the strong ties of friendship between Jordan and Austria.

The 20-member group who represent the press, radio and television in Austria arrived here on Monday on a four-day visit to the Kingdom during which its members will be meeting with several officials and touring a number of places of interest in the country.

Majali praised Austria's stand with regard to the just Arab causes and outlined Jordan's eco-

nomie situation. Jordan will rely on its own resources and potentials, and also on friendly nations in coping with the present economic situation, the minister said during the meeting.

The role of information in the coming stage, the minister said, will conform to the policies drawn up by His Majesty King Hussein in his letter of designation to the prime minister.

He said that the Ministry of Information will play its own role in helping the Jordanian citizens adjust to the present economic circumstances and will help establish social justice and deepen mutual respect between members of the Jordanian family and

promote the role of dialogue to achieve that goal.

On Monday, Majali attended the closing session of the Jordanian theatre festival which lasted a week at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. In an address on the occasion Majali underlined the role of youth and the need to increase sports and youth activities.

The festival was organised by the Amman Community College in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information. At the end of the closing session, the minister distributed awards to the participants in the plays which were presented by six Jordanian community colleges.



Her Highness Princess Tghreed accompanied by the President of the Friends of the Liver Patients Society Saheer Asfour during the Princess visit to the society bazaar in 1988 (file photo).

Global hepatitis B. vaccination

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Hepatitis B can cause acute and chronic liver diseases with significant rates of illness and mortality. The disease is highly prevalent in developing countries, Jordan too.

However, hepatitis B vaccination is increasingly becoming available all over the world, and

its costs are declining leading health officials to seriously consider mass national immunisation programmes.

Such programmes were discussed in a recent meeting held by the World Health Organisation (WHO). World-wide experts and health officials including Dr. Ala Toukan, associate professor of medicine and head of the liver unit at the University of Jordan

Hospital attended. As a result of this meeting strong recommendations were made regarding implementation of world-wide hepatitis B vaccination programmes.

Recently WHO developed various vaccination strategies for hepatitis B on regional levels because each region has different patterns of transmission. The major mode of infection in the Middle East, for example, is among children after birth and usually within the same family. "We estimate that the proportion of child-to-child infection in Jordan to be twenty times higher than mother-to-child transmission which is, more often, the case in South East Asia," says Dr. Toukan.

He said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the greatest risk group in the Middle East is children less than five years of age. The earlier the age of infection the greater the risk of developing cirrhosis and liver cancer in later adulthood. Since that is a person's most productive period of life, this would have a significant economic impact on countries where the disease prevails.

Hepatitis B vaccination is relatively new, however, its introduction into childhood vaccination programmes is still untried. That is why the WHO hepatitis committee recommends that hepatitis B vaccination be integrated into national vaccination programmes through model projects. Such projects will gather information on the methods and problems encountered in hepatitis B immunisation on introducing it into the country's vaccination schedule.

Congratulations to Sharif Zaid

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of various public and private organisations in Jordan converged on the Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Sharif Zaid received Palestine National Council Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representative in Jordan

Abdul Razzak Al Yahya and heads of Christian communities in Jordan as well as a delegation of notables representing the Irbid Governorate.

Later, delegations representing the bedouin tribes and heads of charitable societies and labour and professional unions in Jordan and provincial governors called on the prime minister to offer their congratulations.

GFJW campaigns against consumption

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) Tuesday announced the birth of a committee for the protection of consumers and rationalising consumption.

The decision was taken at a meeting called to discuss the federation's general policies in accordance with regulations that were endorsed by the minister of social development, according to a statement issued here Tuesday.

The statement said that the committee which will have open membership will dedicate its efforts to encourage Jordanians to refrain from buying imported products and to purchase local food supplies, clothes and shoes and other commodities that are being produced locally.

According to the statement,

the committee will also direct its efforts to guide people to avoid excessive spending specially on feasts, parties and graduation ceremonies, to reduce the amount of dowry in marriages, to reduce the cost of weddings and to advise Jordanians to avoid hoarding of food supplies.

The GFJW issued an appeal to the public to opt for simplicity in general appearance and in daily life and to cooperate with the committee members to reduce spending and rationalise consumption in the Kingdom.

The federation's President Haifaa Al Bashir said that the federation is forming committees to help boost the federation's preparations and to involve Jordanian women in the development process.

Tafileh's youth clubs discussed

TAFILEH (Petra) — A meeting was held Tuesday at Tafileh's Youth Welfare Department to discuss plans and future projects of the youth clubs and centres in the governorate. The plans aim at strengthening youth activities in the various economic, social, and voluntary fields and to encourage the exchange of visits between youth clubs.

In order to initiate such projects worldwide, WHO is sponsoring model vaccination programmes in about four countries representing different regions of the world. According to Dr. Toukan, who is also a member of the international task force on hepatitis B immunisation, Jordan has been chosen as one such model for two reasons. First, Jordan has a highly effective immunisation programme for children already in place.

Jordan is therefore formulating a policy whereby the hepatitis B vaccine will be included with the triple vaccines in the first three months of a child's life. If the hepatitis B vaccination is implemented singularly without the other three vaccines, then the process would be very costly as this would involve setting up a whole new administrative structure solely for hepatitis B vaccination.

The second reason for sponsoring Jordan is because enough information on the transmission of the disease and its effects has been gathered.

It is estimated that 1.78 per cent of children born here every year will die from the consequences of hepatitis B infections and mass vaccination can prevent 75 per cent of these deaths, according to Dr. Toukan.

"It is, in fact, estimated that each death can be prevented at a cost of \$418 if a mass vaccination programme is instituted — a worthwhile cost for such devastation. These calculations were revealed in a study commissioned by the Friends of the Liver Patients Society in Amman."

While this model programme will start in one area of Jordan during the coming five years a further expansion of the area will eventually offer all newborn infants protection through hepatitis B immunisation.

The project will enable Jordan to study the effect of hepatitis B vaccination in a scientific manner on infection rates. Hidden costs and the interaction of the vaccine with the other triple vaccines are also areas of study. This project would be a vehicle for training staff, and formulating educational programmes for recipients and parents of children.

The project will start within the coming months as a cooperative effort by WHO, the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Health, and the Friends of the Liver Patients Society. An official from WHO has already visited Amman and met with the Minister of Health, the President of the University of Jordan, and President of the Liver Society. WHO is financing a major part of the vaccination costs, but further financing is still being sought in order to carry out this programme to the full.

Karak gets 1st test tube baby

KARAK (J.T.) — The first test tube baby in Karak, in southern Jordan was born very recently here according to a report in the local press Monday. The report said that the mother, 30-year old Nuha YB, gave birth to the baby, her first, following 10 years of marriage and after visits abroad in attempts to bear children.

Dr. Atef Jaafreh, director of the government hospital here who supervised the delivery, said that the woman had been in contact with the hospital which was able to help fulfil her desire.

The delivery was normal, and the mother and baby boy were reported in good health.

Asked who helped her arrange for the test tube pregnancy, the mother said that it was Dr. Zaid Keilani who operates the Jordan Centre for infertility in Amman which now takes care of numerous test tube cases within a programme that covers Jordan and Arab countries.

Berlin exhibited in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — A week-long art exhibition is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman depicting various aspects of the German city of Berlin.

On display are 120 paintings featuring different facets of life in Berlin and East Germany. The exhibition was organised by the East German embassy in Amman in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information and in implementation of a cultural cooperation agreement between Jordan and East Germany.

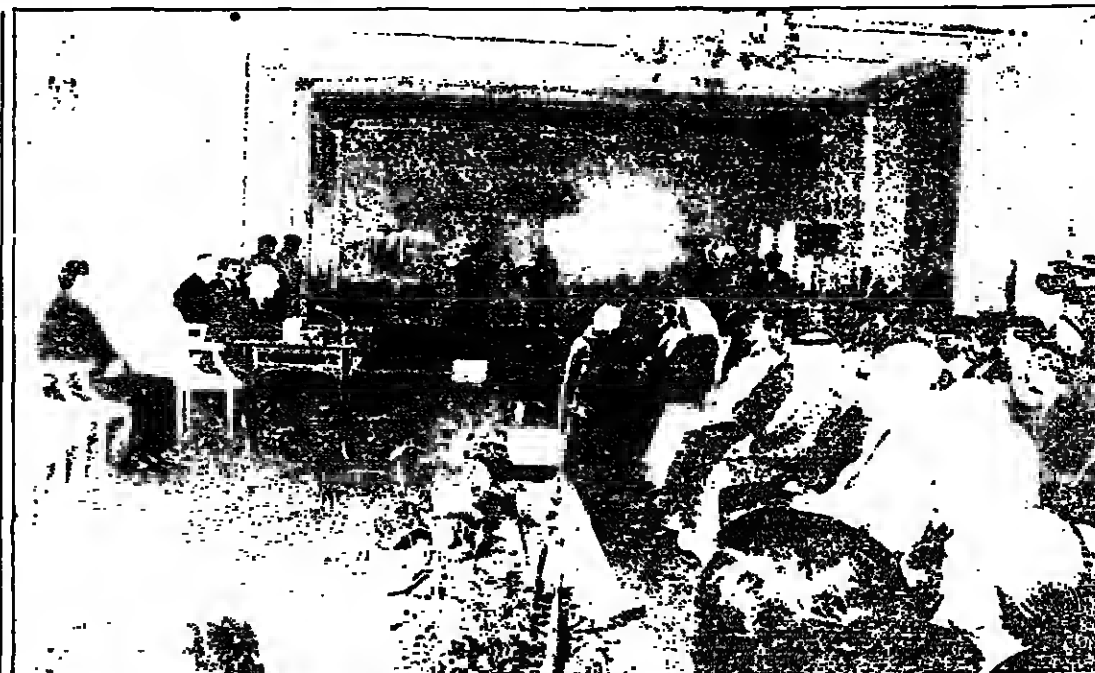
The opening ceremony was attended by the East German charge d'affaires in Amman and an audience of invited guests and art lovers.

Balqa observes traffic day

SALT (Petra) — Balqa Governorate Tuesday decided to hold an international traffic day and an Arab traffic week in Salt and other towns within the governorate starting from May 28.

The deputy governor who made the announcement said that the event will be marked by a campaign of cultural activities, lectures and seminars. The organisers he said, will distribute pamphlets and posters and will take part in other related field work.

The decision was taken at a meeting by representatives of various police departments and public works as well as municipalities and the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses notables from Irbid Governorate at the Royal Court. A prominent leader among the notables expressed the governorate's support for the King's directives to the new government.

Irbid supports King's directives

King: Burden should be shouldered by all

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that the regrettable incidents in a number of Jordanian towns late last month caused him pain, but he understood the circumstances that caused them and expressed hope that the Kingdom will not be facing a similar situation at any moment in the coming stage, and that the Jordanian citizens will not exercise the process of self destruction. Addressing a delegation of notables representing the Irbid Governorate who called at the Royal Court on Monday, the King said that a burden will become lighter if shouldered by the whole community.

"I have great faith in Jordanians and total confidence that they can overcome the difficulties and deal with the circumstances and challenges, and continue the process of construction," King Hussein said at the meeting which was attended by the Chief of the Royal Court Thouqan Hindawi and other court officials.

The letter of designation to the new government, King Hussein said, contains all the essential elements for handling the country's problems and hardships, and for involving the Jordanian citizens in the process of construction.

"It is hoped that Jordan, having overcome the present difficult circumstances, will embark on parliamentary elections soon so that full participation on the part

million inhabitants. Jordan takes pride not only in the ACC but also in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Maghreb Union because, the King said, they both help in the process of integration and mobilising the Arab Nation's efforts.

King Hussein noted that the Arab Nation confronts dangers represented in Israel and its hostile intentions towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

The King said that the Jordanian people ought to take a lesson from the past events and should try to avoid any harm to this country. Speaking on behalf of the delegation, was Mr. Abdul Majid Shreideh former Member of Parliament who said that the Irbid Governorate supports the King's directives, contained in the letter to the new prime minister, and designed to find solutions for the country's economic, administrative and social problems.

Shreideh called on the Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to Jordan to help it stand fast in the face of Israeli aggression and in overcoming its present predicament.

He also voiced the Irbid Governorate's deep pride in His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's continued endeavours to promote the country's development process.



Labour unionists Monday celebrate Labour Day at the Al Hussein Youth City

Minister urges workers to double efforts, increase production

AMMAN (Petra) — A celebration was held at the Al Hussein Youth City in Amman Monday to mark Labour Day and to honour Jordanian veteran labour movement leaders.

Minister of Labour Jamal Bdour who attended the celebration congratulated labour union leaders on Labour Day and conveyed to them greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

This anniversary comes at a stage when Jordan is making

ready to adjust to the economic circumstances, requiring from all workers to double their efforts and increase industrial production to help the country attain self sufficiency, the minister said in a brief speech on the occasion.

Labour Day is a day for honouring workers who constitute the most important factor in the production process and it is a day to express appreciation for their efforts in the economic development process, the minister continued.

The country is proud of its

Red Cross, Crescent concerned for Lebanon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Geneva-based Standing Committee of the National Red Cross and Red Crescent has recently voiced its concern over the deteriorating situation in Lebanon and called on the international community to intervene with and put an end to the tragedy taking place there.

President of the Standing Committee and Chairman of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society Ahmad Abu Qoura said Tuesday.

Abu Qoura who has just returned from a tour in various European capitals and attended the Standing Committee meetings in Geneva, said that the committee appealed to all governments and national committees of the Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies and all the organisations concerned to use their good offices to put an end to the suffering of the Lebanese people and to avoid further losses of lives, as a result of the continuing war there.

The committee also called on all parties to the conflict in Lebanon to respect the basic rules of the international humanitarian law.

In an arrival statement Abu Qoura said he toured Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Monaco where he took part in a meeting for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Committee for Peace, held in Geneva on April 17. He also attended the round table meeting of international law experts which

was held in Spain on April 21, in addition to a meeting organised by the Institute for International Law and the meeting of the legal and medical committees of the Red Cross/Crescent in Monaco.

Abu Qoura said that the meeting discussed the negative aspects resulting from the use of chemical weapons, which have been used during the recent flare of battles, and the role of doctors in banning the use of such weapons, which pose a grave danger to human lives.

Participants considered this kind of weapons as lethal and fatal and therefore have decided to refer it for discussion to the round table conference which will be held in September in Italy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tunisiyyeh at the Housing Gallery.
- ☆ An exhibition entitled "The Tumbling Atlas of the Middle East" at the Gothe Institute.
- ☆ An art exhibition displaying 120 paintings depicting the history of the German city of Berlin and different aspects of life in East Germany, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- ☆ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ☆ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FOLKLORE

- ☆ Performances by folk groups depicting traditional songs and dances at the Roman Amphitheatre down town Amman after iftar.

LECTURE

- ☆ A lecture sponsored by the Jordanian-Italian Friendship Society entitled "Salt Handicrafts Training Centre: Activities and Achievements," at the World Affairs Council — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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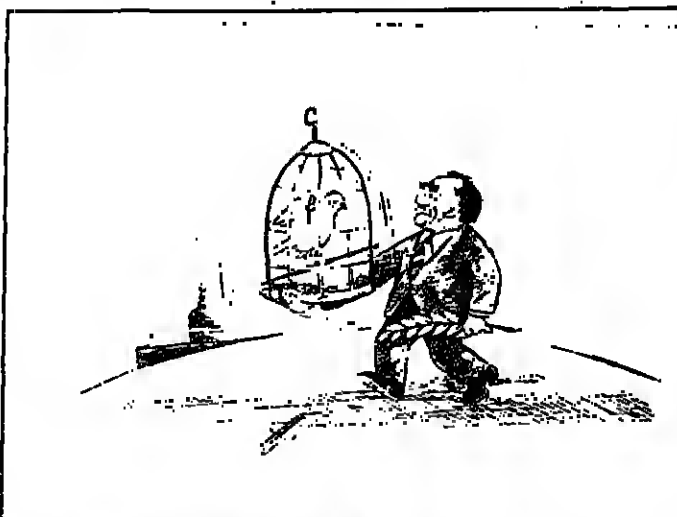
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Regrettable incidents

THE cycle of violence that erupted recently between Mauritians and Senegalese suggests that existing relations between Muslim peoples leave much to be desired. If one is to put aside diplomatic niceties and formal solidarity, inter-Islamic relations appear to be on the shallow side and amenable to disruption and even internecine violence at the first instance. The case of blood-letting between Senegal and Mauritania is by no means the first of its kind. Contemporary history is full of latent and patent animosity between Islamic governments and peoples both official and national that require an in-depth analysis and healing. The flare-up of violence and killing between Mauritians and Senegalese last week is thus a grim reminder that the Islamic house is not in order. To begin with, the understanding and awareness of Islamic teachings and precepts that preach brotherhood and solidarity among Muslims, including the so-called devout among them, have demonstrated time and again to be only skin deep. How else can one explain the repeated cases of Muslims killing their fellow Muslims in a vicious cycle of revenge and counter revenge; and highlighting in the process the predominance of national intolerance over Islamic solidarity and brotherhood.

This unfortunate state of affairs in the Islamic world would require immediate remedial and affirmative action by the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Such an all-encompassing Islamic endeavour must envisage more contacts, communications and dialogue between the Islamic peoples in order to first dilute and then erase altogether all remnants of hatred and ignorance that may still linger in the hearts and minds of Muslims of different nationalities. It is common knowledge that Islamic peoples have yet to relate to formal meetings between Islamic nations which take grandiose decisions on behalf of Muslims everywhere. Only by fortifying relations between the various peoples of the Islamic world, whether in trade, cultural pursuits or tourism, can one expect to put an end to the seeds of animosity that propels the kind of violence that took place few days ago between Mauritania and Senegal.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE three Arabic dailies Monday tackled the national unity and stressed the need on self-reliance in their editorials. Al Ra'i for its part referred to King Hussein's meeting with the representatives of Tafleeh at the Royal Court and said all citizens are now involved with the government in confronting the challenges facing the country and should be shouldered in the same spirit that characterised the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt. The paper said that King Hussein reaffirmed to the Tafleeh notables that he was keenly interested in the affairs of his people and will continue to work hand in hand with them in confronting the challenges and finding solutions. The King was careful to direct his call to all citizens, not just those living in Tafleeh, to commit themselves to diligent work and dedication and to work in unity and translate their commitment into creativity and production, the paper noted. The people of Tafleeh, the paper added, have expressed the feelings of all the members of the Jordanian family towards their leader and their monarch and they also reaffirmed the strong national unity that has always characterised the Jordanian people.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily strongly attacks Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who he says was the first to announce the idea of elections in the occupied territories as a means of settling the Palestine problem. Mahmoud Rimawi says that after receiving a demand signed by 80 Palestinians that elections should not be held under occupation rule, Rabin changed his mind and is now issuing threats against the Palestinians and their leaders. The writer says that throughout history never any people living under occupation had been subjected to such a situation and never forced to vote for something they refuse. The Israelis continue to occupy Arab land and they now demand that the indignant population succumb to the occupiers' dictates and vote for something the Zionist rulers want and desire, the writer points out. He asks how can the oppressed people feel they have democracy under occupation rule which is being consecrated to serve only the Zionists' objectives. The writer says that the Palestinian people's rejection of holding elections under occupation has aroused the Israelis' anger and brought them frustration. This frustration is even greater, says the writer, because the Israeli leaders had hoped that the election idea could serve as a ploy to divert world public attention from the real situation in the occupied Arab lands.

Al Dustour daily referred to the King's address to the notables of Tafleeh in which he reiterated his keenness on maintaining a strong national unity and urged all citizens to join hands to overcome the present difficult circumstances. The paper said that the King has devoted his time and efforts over the past years to serving his country and people and has succeeded in bringing about development and progress to Jordan and the Jordanian people. It said that the King is now boldly leading his nation towards further progress by instilling in his people a new determination towards that goal through devotion, national unity and determination to keep Jordan as an oasis of stability and security.

The key to peace is Jerusalem

By John V. Whitbeck

THE continuing reluctance of a critical mass of Israelis, and particularly Israeli politicians, to contemplate attending an international peace conference or even talking about peace with their enemy, the PLO, may frustrate concerned observers, but it should not surprise them. Quite simply, most Israelis still cannot imagine that any settlement acceptable both to them and to the Palestinians could ever be reached.

In large part, this is because of Jerusalem. No Israeli could advocate that the city be officially divided again, yet they know that the Palestinians could never accept a final settlement that gave them no share of Jerusalem. Indeed, the Palestine National Council formally confirmed this in November by declaring Jerusalem the capital of the State of Palestine.

Given this hard reality, Israelis may well ask why they should even attempt to talk to the Palestinians. As to an international conference, virtually all the discussion has been about procedural details rather than substance. One can baffle forever over procedural details if there is no real prospect of common ground to lure the parties to the table.

While it is often suggested that the problem of Jerusalem is so difficult that it must be put off until the end of negotiations, surely any two parties are more likely to commence difficult negotiations if they can see some hope of a satisfactory result than if they can see none. The problem

of Jerusalem is not insoluble. In the context of a two-state solution, and particularly one involving open borders and a degree of economic union, Jerusalem could form an undivided part of both states, be the capital of both states and be administered by an autonomous, elected municipal council.

As a joint capital, Jerusalem could have Israeli government offices principally in its western sector, Palestinian government offices principally in its eastern sector and municipal offices in both. To the extent that either state wished to control persons or goods passing into it from the other state, this could be done at the points of exit from, rather than the points of entry to, Jerusalem. In a context of peace, particularly one coupled with economic union, the need for such controls would be minimal.

While the United Nations' 1947 partition plan envisioned Jerusalem as a separate entity with international status, the concept of joint sovereignty is not without precedent. Chandigarh is the capital of two Indian states. The western sectors of Berlin, under American, British and French sovereignty, are jointly administered by an autonomous, elected Senate. For more than 70 years, the Pacific state of Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides) was under the joint sovereignty of Britain and France.

Such a solution would give a great deal to the Palestinians at virtually no cost to the Israelis. (Indeed, Israel would finally achieve international recognition of Jerusalem as its capital). Arab

residents of Jerusalem already have the right to vote in municipal elections. Traditionally, very few have done so, viewing participation in such elections as an act of collaboration. To Mayor Kollek's chagrin, less than four per cent voted in the recent election. However, the right to vote has already been conceded. With over a 60 per cent Jewish majority in the city, Israelis would have no more reason to fear "Arab rule" in Jerusalem than they do today.

A capital city is both a municipality on the ground and a symbol in hearts and minds. Its municipal functions can properly be entrusted to a municipal council. If its symbolic significance cannot be shared, then hearts are so hardened that there is no hope for peace with justice in the Holy Land. But if it can be, a precedent for a sharing, rather than a winner-take-all, approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would have been set, with potentially enormous psychological and practical ramifications.

If the PLO were to propose, even if initially only as a trial balloon, the possibility of joint sovereignty over Jerusalem, the great immovable boulder at the end of the road to peace might just roll away and even bitherto intransigent Israeli politicians might be willing to take the risk of starting to walk down that road. For many Israelis who still view peace with the Arabs as inconceivable, peace could, for the first time, become conceivable. The psychological barriers on the Israeli side to any reciprocal movement toward the Palesti-

mians, which now constitute the principal challenge in making progress toward peace, might just start to crumble.

If the Palestinians themselves accepted a settlement and a Palestinian flag were peacefully raised over Palestinian government offices in Jerusalem, few Arabs would continue to reject Israel. While many Arab governments, individually, have made this implicit, many Israelis have not heard, or pretend not to have heard, this message.

If a PLO suggestion of joint sovereignty over Jerusalem were coupled with a joint public pronouncement by as many Arab governments as possible that, if Israel and the PLO negotiated a settlement acceptable to the Palestinians, they would consider themselves at peace with Israel and would promptly extend diplomatic recognition and offer to exchange ambassadors, the combined effect on Israeli public opinion could be dramatic.

In a recent poll, 53 per cent of Israelis supported talks with the PLO. Politicians can ignore that, if, however, the percentage rose to 63 per cent, they could no longer ignore it, and if both sides ever sat down together, the pressures on them from their own peoples and from the world community to reach an agreement would be so intense that they could not afford to get up without doing so.

The road to peace is unlikely to start in Washington or Moscow or at an international conference, though it may well pass through them. It could and should start in Jerusalem — Middle East International, London.

Message for the close of Ramadan

The following is a text of a letter from the Political Council of Interreligious Dialogue on the occasion of Ramadan's end and the Eid Al-Fitr celebrations.

1409/1989

Dear Muslim Friends,
Brothers and Sisters in God,

ON the occasion on the fast of Ramadan and the feast of Al-Fitr, we are pleased to wish you a happy feast in the name of our Secretariat, which this year has been given a new name: "The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue". This title expresses much more clearly and in a more positive way the purpose of our office.

Our Council, which is celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of its existence, took the initiative soon after its establishment of sending you an annual message, in order to express our friendship, to emphasise the brotherhood uniting those who believe in the one living and true God, and so affirm our esteem for the spiritual values attached to the fast of Ramadan.

One of these values which we would like to highlight this year is the unity of the human family which is professed by our two religions, and which the practice of fasting invites us to deepen. Indeed, through fasting we experience our weakness and are led to rely on God's strength. Fasting also develops in us the sense of community; it brings closer together the rich and the poor, the most privileged and the most needy; it encourages believers to be reconciled with all their brethren. Fasting teaches us interdependence and solidarity, which are the fruit of true conversion of heart. And it is this same which enables us, Christians and Muslims, to foster mutual esteem and trust, so that beyond our differences we may together promote the building up of the human family.

In expressing to you our best wishes for this feast of Al Fitr, we ask the Lord to bless the efforts we make in order to understand one another better, and to increase in us daily the good will and love required of us by our two religions.

Francis Cardinal Arinze
President

Ethnic strife threatens Pakistan's Sind province

By Oliver Wates
Reuters

HYDERABAD, Pakistan — Ali, a successful professional man, is thinking of leaving his gracious, colonnaded house in the centre of Hyderabad.

"I am a Sindhi, this is a Mohajir area," is his simple explanation.

Ali's story is repeated throughout Pakistan's southern province of Sind. Frightened by the prospect of ethnic violence, people are separating into their own communities and the province of 24 million people is threatening to disintegrate.

Thousands of Mohajirs, immigrants from India, are abandoning their homes and businesses in the small towns along the Indus River, according to community spokesmen.

They are moving mainly to the giant metropolis of Karachi where the organised political power and Kalashnikov assault rifles of their militants give them greater security.

The province has a history of unrest and most of the 900 people killed in the past two and a half years died in fighting between Mohajirs and Pashtuns from the north.

Now Mohajir-Sindhi strife has come to the fore. At least 60 people have died in five cities and towns since March 10 and more violence is widely expected.

"The situation here is explosive," said Hyderabad's Mohajir Mayor Aftab Sheikh who still carries three bullets in his body from an assassination attempt a year ago.

"The militias are there, the private armies are there," leading Sindhi politician Hamida Khuro said. "It is getting to be a Beirut situation — people are moving into separate ethnic zones."

The problem is rooted in the partitioning of British India in 1947 into predominantly Hindu India and Islamic Pakistan. Many urban Sindhis were Hindus, who left for India en masse.

Their place was taken by Urdu-speaking Muslims who migrated to Pakistan from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other Indian states. The Mohajirs (refugees), as they became known, were mainly middle class and tended to be better educated than the Sindhis.

They rocketed onto the political scene in 1985 when the muscular Mohajir National Movement (MQM) was formed.

Hard-line Mohajirs want to turn Karachi, which has a population of about eight million, into a fifth province.

Sindhi nationalists want more autonomy — some say independence — and controls on migration.

Madad Ali Sindhi, editor of the Hyderabad newspaper Sind Daily News, said: "If the situation is not controlled there could be civil war in Sind's two biggest cities."

Some of the bloodshed is clearly pre-planned, as when gunmen sprayed bullets in several Mohajir areas of Hyderabad simultaneously last September, killing almost 200 people.

On other occasions fighting flared from trivial causes, like traffic accidents.

Hyderabad has been under night curfew since early April. Troops in battledress man sand-bagged checkpoints and rooftop posts at the entrance to the city of a million-and-a-half people and patrol the streets at night.

The military are enforcing a curfew in several suburbs of Karachi, 175 kilometres to the west. Soldiers search vehicles and travellers on the main road into the city.

Chinese students find inspiration in 1919 democracy movement

By Kathy Wilhelm
The Associated Press

BEIJING — "Remember May fourth" has become the rallying cry of Beijing students who have swept past police barricades to march for democracy and clean government the past two weeks.

The date is as emotionally stirring to intellectual-Chinese as 1776 is to Americans or Bastille Day to the French.

It is the day in 1919 that Beijing University students launched a campaign for science and democracy, showing intellectuals for the first time their power to lead the masses and affect policy.

Even before the April 15 death of a reformist official triggered the new protests, students were counting the days to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the May fourth movement.

Now, after having marched repeatedly on central Beijing's Tiananmen square and staged the largest protests in 40 years of Communist rule, many students are studying the history of the movement to learn from its strategy.

"It was China's enlightenment," said one student marcher, referring to the 18th century science and democracy movement in the West that gave rise to the American and French revolutions.

"May fourth divided Chinese history into two parts — what came before and everything afterward," the student said. "What we are doing now is a continuation of May fourth."

The May fourth movement began with student anger over the Versailles treaty that ended World War I. China's warlord government agreed to treaty clauses that endorsed Japan's seizure of parts of China during the war.

More than 3,000 students from 13 Beijing schools, led by China's most prestigious school, Beijing University, gathered May 4, 1919, at the Tiananmen gate to the former imperial palace.

They signed a manifesto denouncing the treaty, burned the house of a government official and beat another as a "traitor." Protests spread to other cities and were supported by newspapers, worker strikes and boycotts of Japanese-made goods. The government quickly backed down and rejected the Versailles treaty, but the protests did not stop.

Galvanised by their new sense of power, the students then demanded sweeping democratic reforms and adoption of Western scientific thinking. China's traditional culture made it weak and ripe for foreign invasion, the students argued.

The movement trained a generation of intellectuals in political activism. Many went on to support the Communists in the civil war that ended in 1949 with Communist victory.

"But for the May fourth movement, there would have been no Chinese revolution," He Xin, a scholar, said at one of a series of symposiums being held in China to commemorate the anniversary.

The official symposium have been careful to stress that protests may have been appropriate then, but not now.

However, student protesters and older intellectuals say they are angry that so little progress toward establishing a democratic, scientific system has been made.

"Seventy years," lamented one banner, carried in Thursday's march by 150,000 students and supporters on Tiananmen, the symbolic seat of power in China and rallying place for protesters.

"We haven't yet achieved the society we hoped for," said 88-year-old Bing Xin, one of modern China's leading writers and a participant in the original May fourth movement.

"We can speak out, but our words have little effect. We are not yet satisfied," she said in a rare interview. "The rule of man is still more important than rule of law."

Bing Xin said the 1919 movement won widespread support because it had a popular goal — opposing Japanese imperialism — as well as the vaguer slogans of science and democracy. "Those were new words in China, and many people didn't know what they meant," she said.

In a country where one-quarter of the population is illiterate, many people today still don't understand the student calls for science and democracy.



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Riddle of the sphinx gives archaeologists nightmares

By Jeffrey Bartholot
Reuters

GIZA, Egypt — Legend has it that the sphinx once appeared to a Pharaonic prince in a dream, asking for help against encroaching desert sands.

Now the 4,600-year-old sculpture of a lion with a human head, crouching below the massive Giza pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo, is giving restoration experts nightmares.

Time has shaved off the fabulous monster's beard and lopped off its carboles, oose and bits of its chin. Each day, flakes of limestone float away.

According to ancient Greek myth the sphinx posed a riddle to man but cedius could answer. His modern counterparts — some of the world's top archaeologists — are once more wrestling with the riddle of how to preserve it, as each falling stone provokes controversy.

"It's not just an old building you're going to refurbish and reovate," said archaeological chemist Omar Arini. "Basically, you're dealing with a lousy rock that's been a lousy rock forever."

The sculpture, whose head is possibly that of the Pharaoh Chephren, was hewn from rock of poor quality. Some scientists believe repairs began soon after the monument was completed.

Much of the damage to the sphinx's mutilated face happened in ancient times. Its nose, according to one account, was hacked off in the ninth century by a Muslim zealot trying to discour-

age idol worship.

Pollution has taken its toll and Egyptian authorities plan to ban cars from the Giza plateau later this year.

After a few damaging restoration attempts in modern times, archaeologists have come full circle. They now believe the methods used by Pharaonic and Roman workmen were the best.

The sphinx is the most prominent restoration case in a country with thousands of ancient tombs and temples.

Archaeologists say more than a dozen important monuments need immediate care.

The most famous restoration of the sphinx was recorded in hieroglyphs on the so-called "Dream Stela" that stands between the outstretched paws of the 70-metre high sculpture.

The inscription on the Stela tells the dream of Tutmosis IV as he slept near the sphinx before he became pharaoh. The man-lion promised the young prince glory if he rescued him from encroaching desert sands.

"Behold thou me the sphinx demaded." I am thy father... who will give thee my kingdom oo earth at the head of the living.

"Thou shalt be to me a protector, for my manner is as if I were ailing in all my limbs," said the sphinx, sinking beneath the threatening sands.

Archaeologists say the desert blanket, which was removed by Tutmosis but later returned, protected the sphinx from man and the elements.

"I just think that the best thing

to do is cover it with sand again," said Zahi Hawass, director of the Giza plateau area. "No one knows what to do... if anyone gives you a proposal (for restoring the sphinx), it will be attacked by both foreigners and Egyptians."

One of the most damaging attempts to restore the sphinx occurred two decades ago when scientists injected a chemical into its chest to harden the rock.

"There is nothing left of the treatment. It all flaked off and took with it some of the mother rock that it was supposed to preserve," said Arini.

"The was the state of the art at the time — now we know it didn't work."

Such experiments have made archaeologists cautious about the use of modern techniques. Common wisdom now dictates that less interference is better.

In the early 1980s, the non-interference policy led to a decision under former Egyptian Antiquities Organisation Director Ahmed Qadri to build a new casing around parts of the sphinx to help support it, without using large amounts of mortar.

Unfortunately, none of the decision-makers oversaw the work of the village stone-masons. Where ancient workmen had laid small bricks with little or no mortar to protect parts of the monument, modern masons used heaps of mortar and large blocks.

The mortar caused more stone to flake away. A 300-kilogramme block dropped from the sphinx's shoulder in 1988.

Opinion is now divided on whether to leave the ugly casing or remove it.

"From now on, I am not going to let anyone touch the sphinx at all," said Hawass, who wants to remove the casing. "A plan will have to be approved by an international committee."

Hawass said Egyptian officials would meet in September with members of the national academy of science in Washington to talk about assembling an international team of experts.

The team would live at the site, read all available research and develop a complete plan of action, Hawass said.

Valley of the blind

With more than 7000 cases of blindness, the Luapula Valley is a public health hotspot for Zambia. A team of researchers has confirmed that vitamin A deficiency is a major culprit. In general, they say, most cases of blindness are preventable.

By Daniel Lubinga

ABOUT 30 million people in the world today are blind, according to estimates by the World Health Organisation. Ninety-three per cent of them live in developing countries, with Africa accounting for about 20 per cent of the world total.

The general term "blindness" is defined by WHO as the inability to count fingers from a distance of 3 metres.

The significance of the statistics is that the incidence is nearly 20 times higher than in the industrialised countries. This calls for pragmatic measures to curb this scourge and to improve the living conditions of the blind.

Zambia has a population of about 7 million. A total of 12,750 people — or about one in 550 — are listed as completely blind.

"This is probably less than the actual number of the blind," says Dr. Ernest Njilesani, the director of medical services at the Ministry of Health. "The number of those with various degrees of sight impairment must be much higher."

Following an extensive survey investigating the causes of blindness in an area known as the Luapula Valley, steps are now being taken to redress the situation.

To help Zambia better understand and deal with blindness, IDRC provided financial support for the Luapula Valley Eye Disease Survey in 1985. The researchers are attempting to identify the magnitude and causes of eye disease and blindness in the Valley so that interventions can be planned.

The area, located in the north-west of Luapula Province in northern Zambia, is not called the "Valley of the Blind" for nothing. With a total of 7265 cases (1985 figure), it has the highest rate of blindness in the country.

Medical experts admit that blindness has been an important public health problem in the area for well over 50 years. Few re-

searchers, however, have been able to provide concrete evidence as to the actual causes of blindness in the Luapula.

In the past, the explanations advanced have been a matter of speculation. Among the vast majority of Zambians, the belief has long persisted that blindness in the Valley is due to the high consumption of contaminated fish.

Traditional healer

A prominent Zambian traditional healer "Dr" Rodwell Vongo has his own contribution to the incessant debate. He told a seminar on eye diseases in Africa last February that blindness was also caused by magic, witchcraft, evil spirits, ghosts, and man-made genies. Furthermore, "heavy smoking of tobacco, especially in pipe, over many years produces disturbances and leads to visual failure especially to distinguish red colour."

Previous scientific research suggests that the causes of blindness in the valley are much less certain. "When we looked at the literature since 1945, when the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind conducted research, we found conflicting reports as to the cause of blindness," explains David Mwandu, co-principal investigator for the Luapula Valley Eye Disease Survey.

Mwandu, a nutritionist with the Tropical Diseases Research Centre in the city of Ndola, said the work of these early researchers was mostly sporadic, done by individuals, and their results made it impossible for the government to institute preventive measures.

In 1955, John Wilson visited Mununga and concluded that "mutti," a local eye ointment, was responsible for eye disease. "It is my firm conviction that these African preparations are the main cause of the... lesions," Wilson declared.

In 1961, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind sent a physician to the Kambowa Cen-

tre for the Blind near Ndola to examine blind children from Luapula Valley. The visiting doctor reported that the principal cause of blindness was corneal "necrosis" (death of living tissue) due to malnutrition during infancy and early childhood. This was precipitated by debilitating diseases such as measles and aggravated by secondary infections and by native treatment.

Freelance journalist Ephraim Sumaili is one victim of eye disease who spent his early childhood in the Valley. He supports the contention that local medicine was the cause rather than the cure, saying he himself nearly went blind because of it. "My eyes just got worse and worse with the mutti that was applied to them," Sumaili said he finally refused the herbal treatment and instead sought medical help from a government health centre.

But that plethora of conflicting reports may finally have found its resting ground with the results of the recent survey. In the dry season of 1985, between August and December, a number of interested groups collaborated to conduct a survey in the Luapula with some 23 field staff led by Mwandu. The partnership included the Tropical Diseases Research Centre, the Zambia Flying Doctor Service, the National Food and Nutrition Commission, the Ministry of Health, and the International Centre for Epidemiologic and Preventive Ophthalmology.

WHO guidelines

Based on WHO guidelines, 7000 people from 110 villages were surveyed; 5000 of the participants were under six years old.

Individuals in the sample were examined at a central point in the village. Subjects were screened for eye disease and blindness by means of a visual acuity test to which a series of increasingly small letters known as the Landolt E chart is read. This was supplemented by a test using a pinhole device. Those whose vision proved to be below an established level underwent eye examinations with an ophthalmoscope and other devices to determine the cause of the problem.

To identify malnutrition in children, weight and height were recorded and any history of infectious diseases noted. From blood samples, vitamin A levels were measured. Subjects were also in-



terviewed to establish socioeconomic conditions, food consumption patterns, and use of health facilities.

According to the findings, two per cent of pre-school children in Luapula had a xerophthalmia (Greek for "dry eye"), a disease caused by vitamin A deficiency. It was found to be a major cause of blindness in the children.

Unfortunately, the Luapula Valley is lacking in most of the foods rich in vitamin A — such as meat (especially liver), eggs, milk, butter, green leafy vegetables, carrots, mangoes and papaya. Mangoes, papaya, and bananas are grown mainly between November and March and eaten only when they're in season.

Green vegetables are grown in small quantities. Meat and milk, however, are not available as very few domestic animals are raised in the area. Fish are abundant but their livers, which are rich in vitamin A, are normally removed before eating. Furthermore, most of the fish catch is taken to the nearby Copperbelt and other parts of Zambia where it is sold for cash.

Analysis of blood samples taken during the survey revealed that 75 per cent of the children were deficient in vitamin A. Other contributing factors in the development of xerophthalmia are malnutrition, measles, malaria, diarrhoea, upper respiratory infections, poor diet, and lack of suitable weaning foods.

The survey also revealed an overall prevalence of nearly 7 per cent for cataracts and nearly 3 per cent for corneal opacities among the survey population.

As for trachoma, a contagious eye disease related to poor sanitary conditions, its overall preva-

lence was 13.4 per cent. Trachoma is an inflammation of the mucous membranes on the inner surface of the eyelids, and is caused by a pathogenic microorganism called chlamydia. Acute forms of trachoma were observed mainly in those younger than 50, whereas complications were common in those older than 50.

To combat xerophthalmia it was recommended that vitamin A capsules be distributed on a mass scale through community health workers, village headmen, and rural health centre staff, as well as through child immunisation programmes.

For trachoma, it was recommended that tetracycline eye ointment be made available through the same distribution system. But the researchers also recommended health education through schools, women's clubs, and rural health centres.

For cataracts, it was recommended that surgical services be extended to rural hospitals, and that service through mobile eye clinics be boosted. Additionally, efforts to immunise preschool children against measles should be intensified within hospitals, clinics, and mobile health care units.

The survey team noted that the vast majority of blindness in the Luapula Valley is preventable. The problem of eye disease and blindness is the responsibility of both of the individual and of many other sectors of society. In particular, health, agriculture, education, and local government have key roles to play — IDRC report.

Daniel Lubinga is a freelance journalist based in Ndola, Zambia.

Agriculture: S. Arabia

A victim of its own success

THE growth in agriculture in recent years is one of the more remarkable facets of Saudi development. In little more than 10 years, the kingdom has emerged as a major wheat exporter, and is virtually self-sufficient in vegetables, eggs, poultry and dairy products. In the past five years alone the sector's annual output has tripled in value to more than \$6,000 million.

As surpluses mount, the financial and environmental costs of the achievement are coming under scrutiny. But doubts about the sector's long-term viability, most often expressed by foreign observers, are not yet shared by agriculture's domestic defenders, who are still flush with pride at their success.

The growth in wheat production has been the most striking. A harvest of just 300,000 tonnes in 1975/76 had risen to an estimated 2.8 million tonnes by 1988. Projections based on seed orders suggest that output in 1989 will reach 3 million tonnes. The wheat production policy was originally devised to promote food security and turn the kingdom into the breadbasket for the GCC's six member states. Performance has since outstripped the needs of security and self-sufficiency by a wide margin. Domestic demand averages 800,000 tonnes a year and the GCC absorbs a further 400,000 tonnes. The 1988 surplus of 1.6 million tonnes found market as far away as China and Colombia.

The achievements is all the more astounding when set against the harshness of the environment. Skilful irrigation and elaborate husbandry have transformed desert soil that, with high levels of salinity, gypsum and sand, was virtually devoid of nutrients. Vast areas of previously barren land have come under

central pivot irrigation.

The innovations required to such inhospitable conditions have challenged the technical ingenuity of European and U.S. agro-industrial concerns. Farmers have been aided by interest-free loans from the Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, free land, subsidised fertilisers, feed and equipment.

The growth in output has been fuelled by the fact producers receive guaranteed purchase prices for wheat. Having created the structure, the government has become a victim of its own success and is tied to a costly support system which makes little economic sense. Indeed, independent analysts estimate that the kingdom exported wheat in 1987 at just 30 per cent of its purchase and shipment price. The authorities paid farmers \$533 a tonne to produce wheat that was available on the world market for \$120.

Guaranteed purchase prices for wheat have come down, from SR \$3.50 a kilogramme to SR 2, without having the desired impact on output. In January 1988, veteran Agriculture and Water Minister Abdel-Rahman Al-Shaikh confidently predicted a levelling-off in wheat output, at about 2.3 million — 2.4 million tonnes a year. Instead, the state-owned Grain Silos & Flour Mills Organisation (GSFMO) — the official purchasing agent — was faced with a harvest which grew by 500,000 tonnes.

The five state-owned farming corporations and the largest private concern, Al-Rajhi Company, have been told that the guaranteed purchase price for the 1989 harvest will fall by 25 per cent to SR 1.50 a kilogramme. A low ceiling has been set on the volume to be bought from the six, understood to be 200,000 tonnes. The slightly more coercive

approach may succeed in reducing wheat harvests where simple persuasion clearly failed. Yet the purchase price for smaller private farmers, who produce an estimated 88 per cent of the wheat crop, remains unchanged. The smaller farmers have higher production costs and would suffer more from cuts in the purchase price or limits set by GSFMO on the crop volumes it is prepared to buy.

Analysts suggest that the real target of the revised pricing policy is not wheat overproduction but the costly import of barley. Given the relatively low yields a hectare, farmers are reluctant to grow barley when far higher returns can be achieved on wheat. Demand for barley is estimated at 4 million-6 million tonnes a year, of which only 250,000 tonnes is produced locally. The kingdom is the world's largest barley importer. Reductions in wheat purchase prices should encourage larger barley plantings in 1989 by the big companies. In anticipation of the increase, GSFMO is building new silos in Qassim and Al Kharij. The guaranteed

purchase price for the grain is unchanged at SR 1 a kilogramme and a controversial import subsidy was abolished by decree on Jan. 2.

The cautious manoeuvring on wheat and barley pricing and production reveals the sensitivity of tampering with this area of government largesse. Agricultural policy contains elements of social and political engineering which, for the time being, outweigh simple cost considerations. It has a role in securing social stability and is a cornerstone of Riyadh's policy for the regions. The agricultural revolution has been a key element in the indirect transfer of funds to the impoverished central region where the large-scale farming is concentrated. It has stemmed the population drift to the big cities by bringing prosperity to the smaller towns and villages. Agriculture has helped diversify the economy away from oil: a hasty reduction in support could cancel out achievements which the kingdom regards with great pride.

An equally burning issue is the looming crisis in water resources.

Agriculture accounts for a massive 89 per cent of water demand, which unofficial estimates put at about 18,100 million cubic metres a year. Domestic consumers account for barley 5 per cent and industry for even less. Shallow wells that have provided water for pivot irrigation are drying out, forcing farmers to drill deeper. Water quality is often so low that corrosion halves the life of modern irrigation equipment. Fossil water drawn from ever deeper reservoirs needs to be purified and cooled before it can be used for irrigation, which is contributing to a steady escalation in the cost of delivering suitable supplies. Drip irrigation and sprinklers may use water more efficiently than traditional flood irrigation, but their impact pales when set against the huge rise in the area under cultivation.

Critical levels of aquifer depletion in certain areas have been acknowledged, but officials do not regard it as a cause for concern. The authorities say agricultural development was undertaken only because adequate resources, including water, were available to make it possible. Dam construction and greenhouses are cited as examples of water conservation.

This sanguine attitude may begin to seem dangerously complacent if water shortages become more acute. For some farmers they already are. Reports in 1987 suggested that the Al-Kharyj-based Saudi Arabia Agriculture & Dairy Company would have to invest up to \$20 million over the next three years to secure suitable water supplies. At present, the guardians of the kingdom's agricultural policy are more concerned with the problems of success than the prospect of failure — MEED report.



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Mubarak tells Egyptians to eat less and have fewer babies

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has told Egyptians to eat less and have fewer babies to help tackle their country's economic problems.

Mubarak, in a televised policy speech Monday, said Egypt's 54 million population grew much faster than its resources.

"We increase about one million and a half each year," he said in his three-hour address. "It (population) threatens to choke the efforts we exert in all fields and quashes all hopes of growth, production and development."

Egypt, which imports more than half its food, is trying to reach agreement with the international Monetary Fund (IMF) on rescheduling part of its \$43 billion foreign debt.

The IMF wants it to slash food and energy subsidies and raise interest rates to balance the state budget.

Mubarak said that Egypt had taken its first steps towards economic reform but could not drastically cut its spending because this could lead to social unrest. In 1977, sharp bread and flour price rises triggered riots.

Mubarak said an average Egyptian consumed 197 kilograms of wheat each year compared with 77 kilograms in other countries.

He urged Egyptians not to waste bread, heavily-subsidised by the government, by using it as animal feed.

Subsidies for basic foodstuffs such as wheat, sugar and edible oil between July 1988 and May this year reached over \$6 billion, he said.

"In 1981-82, it was over \$2 billion. See how consumption has increased because of the population. Please realise that because

we can no longer live like this," Mubarak said.

Mubarak also urged Egyptians not to have nine or 10 children if they could not provide them with a decent life. "If you want to give your country a present, give it a healthy, strong and educated family instead of a complexed and weak one."

Mubarak said he was aware economic reforms were complicated and time-consuming. "To overcome this challenge, every citizen must be ready to contribute... to keep away from excessive consumption and to protect public funds."

Western analysts based in Cairo said Egypt had already raised domestic price on electricity and some oil products by 30 to 40 per cent.

Mubarak said oil, one of Egypt's main foreign currency earners, only brought in \$1.8 billion last year compared with about \$2 billion in 1987.

He said he was not trying to paint a gloomy picture. "We must know what the illness is so we can treat it. If we don't know it, we will walk in the dark until we fall."

Interest rates to go up before mid of May

Egypt plans to announce increases on domestic interest rates in two weeks time, a central bank official said Tuesday.

Cairo newspapers quoted Prime Minister Atef Sedki last week as saying interest rates would be raised Monday in a move to increase savings. Monday was a public holiday in Egypt and all banks were closed.

The official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters: "We are working on the final details and expect to make the announcement in two weeks."

He said the central bank re-



Hosni Mubarak

commended an increase of two to four per cent on deposit rates and one to two per cent on loans. Banks now have a maximum rate of 13 per cent on deposits.

The IMF has urged Egypt to hoist interest rates up to 25 per cent as part of economic reforms which would clear the way for new credits and a rescheduling of foreign debt.

Egypt hopes to reach agreement with the IMF to reschedule about \$4 billion due from July 1 last year to the end of next month.

AFM trading exceeds JD 10m

AMMAN (Petra) — The total volume of trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during the past month amounted to JD 10,043,315 against JD 4,835,055 in the same month of 1988, thus registering an increase of 107.7 per cent, according to the AFM's Monthly Bulletin.

The bulletin said that the total number of shares traded at the AFM was 6,521,051 against 4,468,607 in April of 1988, an increase of 45.9 per cent.

During April 1989 a total of 8,615 contracts were concluded at the AFM against 5,912 in the same month of the past year while the average daily volume of transactions was JD 456,514 in the past month against JD 230,241 in April 1988.

The bulletin said that the average number of shares traded on a daily basis in April 1989 was estimated at 294,411, registering an increase of 39.3 per cent over figures released for April 1988.

The industrial sector last month acquired the lion's share of the total operations, accounting for JD 6,226,855 or 62 per

cent of the total volume of trading, followed by the banks and financial companies at JD 24.3 per cent. Services stood at 11.1 per cent and the insurance sector accounted only for 2.6 per cent of the total trading.

The AFM bulletin noted that the highest closing figure was 124.4 points last month compared

with 112.1 point in the same month of last year. The bulletin indicated that the prices of industrial companies, banks and services sectors rose in the past month by 23.3 per cent, 19.4 per cent and 13.5 per cent respectively, but the insurance sector declined by 14.5 points to reach 8.5 per cent.

Alfonsin admits mistakes

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The Argentine government imposed a price freeze and other emergency measures Monday night to try to rein in runaway inflation.

Argentina's monthly rate of inflation was more than 35 per cent in April, according to estimates by private economists, and could top 40 per cent in May. Official figures put the annual rate in March at 392.8 per cent compared with 383.2 in February.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez did not specify how long the price freeze would remain in force.

Prices on some food and household items have nearly tripled in the past three months since Alfonsin's administration introduced sweeping economic reforms aimed at heading off hyperinflation.

Newspapers, fruit, vegetables, beef and fish will not be affected by the price freeze, the government said.

Before freezing prices the government raised public services rates by 20 per cent and fuel prices by 25 per cent.

Argentina's central bank declared an exchange holiday for Tuesday and set a limit on withdrawals from bank accounts and time deposits due to a shortage of

cash. Thousands of Argentines have not been able to cash their pay cheques since Friday, when the bank had to declare a banking holiday after it ran out of paper money.

Withdrawals will be limited to 500,000 australs (\$6,370), except for funds drawn to pay salaries, the government said.

The federal mint spent the weekend printing up to nine million 1,000 austral bills to supply banks after Monday's Labour Day holiday.

Other measures to narrow the public deficit include new taxes, including a 20 per cent levy on exports, and a drive to collect unpaid taxes, Lopez told reporters.

In a televised speech in congress Monday, Alfonsin acknowledged his government had failed to resolve Argentina's economic problems.

"We are likely to hand over a nation in crisis to the next government. We have not managed to overcome the economic crisis," he said.

"There were things we did not know how to do, there were things we did not want to do and there were things we could not do," he added.

Venezuelans protest austerity

CARACAS (R) — More than 100,000 workers marched through Caracas Monday in a noisy May Day protest against the economic policies of President Carlos Andres Perez.

The Confederation of Venezuelan workers, the nation's largest trade union federation, turned its traditional May Day parade into a demonstration against austerity measures that have driven the cost of living to the highest level ever.

Venezuelan presidents usually march in the May Day parade, but Perez watched this one from a balcony.

He told reporters he was glad to see workers in the street protesting. "I need to see the workers in the street so that all sectors... see the need for us to create a climate where we all feel protected by social justice," he said.

CTV President Juan Jose Delplino, addressing workers, said: "We have asked the government not to apply the measures as a shock treatment... because we have become the victims of the economic crisis," Delplino said.

Political turmoil keeps Iran dependent on oil

DUBAI (R) — Iran's economy is being kept afloat by oil with political turmoil hitting other options for recovery after the eight-year-long Gulf war.

Economists and oil analysts said Tehran was giving top priority to boosting oil output and export capacity and would hold tightly to its world oil markets, which provide at least 90 per cent of its foreign exchange.

A ban by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on close ties with Western nations, aimed at preserving the Islamic ideals of his 1979 revolution, has blocked any influx of Western funds and technology, the economists said.

"So the easiest thing to do is to try to find which part of the economy can get you the quickest rates of return, and the only sector is oil," said an Iranian oil analyst.

Higher oil export capacity would give Iran more clout in negotiating its output quota with other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) states, economists said.

That would leave Iran well-placed to take advantage of any rise in world oil demand.

But Gulf-based bankers said the excessive reliance on oil could undermine a widely-held assumption that Iran, with a small external debt estimated at \$5 to \$6 billion, was a good credit risk if it ever did decide to borrow abroad.

The bankers said Iran could find it hard to repay any new loans from abroad if its hard currency earnings stagnated.

Non-oil exports fell 11 per cent to \$971 million in the 1988/89 year to March 20, according to official figures. The main exports were carpets, pistachio nuts, hides, and copper bars, the first three being cheap goods with a limited market.

Political upheavals have ended expectation that Iran, after agreeing a ceasefire from last August in its war with Iraq, would start emergency repairs to its manufacturing base and other sectors of its shattered economy.

Tehran fell out with Western nations after Khomeini issued a death edict in February against British author Salman Rushdie for alleged blasphemy in his novel "The Satanic Verses."

Last month Khomeini sacked his designated successor, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, who was widely regarded as a moderate. A successor has not been appointed.

Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh in charge of economic reconstruction said last month that foreign borrowing would hurt Iran's independence.

Oil analysts calculate Iran's oil

output capacity at just over three million barrels per day (b/d) and its export capacity at just over 2.5 million.

Its OPEC output quota is 2.64 million b/d, the same as Iraq's and a Reuters survey for March showed it producing three million b/d.

Iranian officials say the balance is going into stockpiles.

Oil also has in support most of Iran's barter trade and provide fuel for its industrial sector, which Iranian economists calculate is running at an average 40 per cent capacity due to a 50 per cent shortfall in energy supplies.

Those uses of its oil cut the amount of foreign exchange that Iran can earn by selling it abroad.

The 1989/90 budget allocated \$1 billion of foreign exchange to the energy ministry and the National Iranian Oil Company was allowed to reinvest all its profits in projects to boost output and sales of oil, gas, and petrochemicals.

Reuters sees good growth

LONDON (R) — The world news and information organisation Reuters expects continued good growth in 1989 as net new orders for its products remained high.

Reuters Holdings PLC Chairman Christopher Hogg told the company's annual general meeting that gross new orders for core Reuters products were strong and, although cancellations were heavier than normal, the net order rate was high enough to sustain growth.

"Costs remain under tight control and last year's rationalisation programme is having the intended effect on margins," Hogg said.

Reuters introduced its rationalisation scheme after the global stock market crash of 1987 resulted in cancellations of orders for Reuters products in a tighter financial market and difficult trading conditions.

The company's pre-tax profit in 1988 was up 20.5 per cent of £215.4 million (\$365.4 million) while revenues rose 15.7 per cent to £1 billion (\$1.7 billion).

Despite cost restraints, Reuters was preparing to launch several major new products which will make a substantial contribution to the company's growth from 1990, Hogg said.

Reuters supplies a wide range of services to both business subscribers and the news media. It obtains its information from around 156 exchanges and over-the-counter markets, from data contributed directly by more than 3,570 subscribers in 80 countries and from a network of over 1,190 journalists, photographers and cameramen.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Capital flight aggravates Arab problems

DUBAI (R) — Arab countries, save for the richest gulf oil producers, suffer from economic policies which encourage citizens to send their money abroad unofficially, a leading regional economist said. People try to build up foreign currency assets abroad to escape the effects of inflation and unrealistic official exchange and interest rates at home, said Henry Azzam, chief economist at Gulf International Bank. Such capital flight, even when narrowly defined as an increase in private foreign deposits, seriously aggravates the external debt of Arab countries, he said in an article for Arab Banker magazine. He said that, according to statistics from the International Monetary Fund, foreign bank deposits held by nationals could pay back 27 per cent of Jordan's external debt or 29 per cent of Syria's debt if the money was repatriated. If treated as part of a country's foreign exchange reserves, foreign bank deposits would amount to 102 per cent of Algeria's official reserves or a massive 5,123 per cent of Sudan's official reserves, he said.

Morocco raises minimum wages

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan government raised legal minimum wages by 10 per cent Monday as thousands of workers took part in traditional May Day parades. Labour Minister Hassan Abbad said in a broadcast that the increase would enable workers to benefit from the country's economic performance last year when gross domestic product grew by 10 per cent and the inflation rate was kept to 2.3 per cent. Legal minimum wages were set in January last year at 4.32 dirhams (51 cents) an hour in industry and 22.35 dirhams (\$2.66) a day in agriculture. Unions have staged numerous strikes in the mining, banking, oil and food sectors in the past six months in support of demands for higher pay and other benefits.

Iraq dissolves state business federation

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi government, reversing a 20-year-old nationalisation, dissolved the state-run business federation to allow businessmen to set up their own, the government-run business weekly reported Tuesday. The weekly Al Ittihad announced that the ruling Revolutionary Command Council decided to disband the General Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and allow merchants and industrialists to set up two separate organisations. According to the decree, there will be separate chambers of commerce in each Iraqi town, in addition to a national organisation for industrialists. All members of the two federations will be elected by businessmen in direct and secret balloting, the weekly said. The government dissolved the independent system twenty years ago and integrated the two federations into a single body run by the government. The decision is a further step in trying to revitalise the Iraqi economy by giving private businessmen more freedom in running their affairs.

Colt Firearms to be sold

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — The historic firearms business that gave Colt Industries Inc. its name will be sold, company officials in New York have announced. Colt is attempting to find a buyer for Colt Firearms, which employs 1,100 workers at two plants in West Hartford and Hartford, spokesman Michael Dunn said. The firearms division, which has been mired in a three year old strike, also recently lost its contract to manufacture M-16 rifles for the U.S. military. But Dunn said neither was a factor in the announcement. Colt management decided the company should focus on its aerospace, automobile and industrial services sectors. Dunn said. Dunn refused to disclose sales and revenue figures for the firearms division. Colt Industries, based in New York, is a privately held company and does not publicly disclose its financial statements. Colt was founded in 1836 in Hartford by Samuel Colt, the inventor of the famous Colt .45 handgun. The company now makes rifles and handguns for military and civilian use. Dunn said he expected a purchaser of the gun manufacturer to retain the Colt name.

Indonesia hikes interest on export credits

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia announced an increase in the interest rate for rupiah export credits, but has allowed exporters to borrow other currencies at international rates.

Bankers and economists said the move may be to shield Indonesia from criticism from its

trading partners that it is unfairly protecting its exporters by lending them cheap money.

Central bank governor Adrianus Mooy said Tuesday that exporters of primary commodities will have to pay 14 per cent interest, up from the present nine per cent, while rates on non-primary goods will go to 14.5 per cent from 11.5 per cent.

"We need to make our exports more competitive, but we should do it in realistic conditions. Subsidising export credits makes for artificial competitiveness, so it is time to cut subsidies to exporters," Mooy told reporters.

Mooy admitted that the measure, due to take effect on May 11, would increase production costs and cut profits for exporters in Indonesia.

Jakarta is keen to step up its already astonishing rate of growth in non-oil exports, which by the end of the financial year next March are expected to top a billion dollars a month, 30 per cent up on a year earlier.

The government took the sting out of the more expensive export rupiah by allowing banks to raise money in cheaper foreign currencies and lend that to exporters in credits.

"Now that banks can get hold of yen at five per cent and Swiss francs at six, and lend it on to exporters, Indonesia can afford to start phasing out its export subsidies," an economic analyst said.

Jakarta is working on the question of subsidies across the

board. Partly because it's expensive, but also because they don't want to be accused of unfair trading," he said.

A foreign banker here agreed. "You can't go screaming at the Americans, the Australians and the Japanese for keeping out your products if you are to a certain extent playing the same game yourself," he said.

"It looks pretty dramatic, a jump from nine per cent to 14. But any exporter who is creditworthy will get their cheap money in yen and Deutschmarks. It's not the end of the world," another banker said.

The blow to exporters was also softened by giving them 12 months rather than six to pay off their credits.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, May 2, 1989 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	319.4 323.0
Pound Sterling	905.2	914.1	84.3 85.2
Deutschmark	284.9	287.9	401.6 402.3
			23.5 23.2
			84.0 84.8
			39.0 39.4
			136.2 137.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6812/22	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1840/50	Canadian dollar
	1.8885/92	Deutschmarks
	2.1310/17	Dutch guilders
	1.6833/43	Swiss francs
	39.51/54	Belgian francs
	6.3800/50	French francs
	1380/1381	Italian lire
	134.02/12	Japanese yen
	6.4025/75	Swedish crowns
	6.8470/520	Norwegian crowns
	7.3460/510	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.50/378.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market was steady at the close of floor trading ahead of Thursday's release of the March consumer price index. The All Ordinaries index was steady at 1,491.2.

TOKYO — Share prices rose to their fifth straight record close on a late buying surge in anticipation of higher prices next week. The Nikkei index rose 161.82 to 33,954.99.

HONG KONG — Blue chips ended at their highs for the day following active bargain-hunting after lunch. The Hang Seng index rose 32.50 to 3,156.37.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrial index rose 6.54 points to close at a post-crash high of 1,265.95, surpassing the previous post-crash high set Friday.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell sharply on nervous long liquidations triggered by rumours that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi may call early elections. Tata Steel fell 42.5 rupees to 1,412.5 and Nocl 35 to 870.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed easier but up from the day's lows in thin, sluggish trading. The DAX index fell 8.36 to 1,362.54.

ZURICH — Prices closed lower across the board in dull trading as investors squared positions before Thursday's holiday. The all-share Swiss index fell 6.5 to 1,028.6.

PARIS — Prices edged back from their opening levels as the lack of fresh trading due to the current holiday period weighed on sentiment.

LONDON — Shares were hovering just above the day's lows in the afternoon in depressed trading. The prospect of a week without economic data discouraged investors, while a hesitant start on Wall Street did little to revive interest. At 1440 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 8.6 to 2,109.4.

NEW YORK — Early buying dried up and the market began to shed some gains in mid-morning. The Dow was up five to 2,220.

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Workers of the world unite, fight on May Day

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Poles shouted "Down with communism" at a May Day march in Warsaw. Soviet Armenians defied a ban on demonstrations, and rallies became riots in South Korea and Czechoslovakia as workers marked their worldwide holiday.

Clashes Monday in Turkey left 36 people injured, riot squads fired tear-gas when leftists tried to march on the U.S. embassy in the Philippines, and thousands burned U.S. flags in Honduras. The Soviet Union held a traditional parade through Red Square, China used the occasion to try to ease a burgeoning student uprising, and a man holding a poster of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev was dragged away by police in Czechoslovakia.

Around the world, thousands gathered on the International Labour Day to celebrate their gains with banners and balloons, or protest their losses with hurled rocks and smashed windows. Up to 100,000 Solidarity supporters marched through Warsaw

in the union's first legal May Day gathering since it was suppressed eight years ago. Workers chanted "Down with communism" during the show of strength.

In the Soviet Union, an activist in the Soviet Republic of Armenia said residents in the capital, Yerevan, defied a ban and held a large, peaceful rally. May Day celebrations were banned in Yerevan and Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, because of recent pro-independence unrest in both cities and the devastating earthquake in Armenia.

The mood was festive in Moscow under sunny skies during the traditional May Day parade through Red Square. Gorbachev and other officials stood atop Lenin's Tomb as thousands of marchers waved colourful banners, pushed floats and floated balloons.

In Turkey, 36 people were injured in battles with security forces during outlawed May Day marches in Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency reported. Eight of them were wounded by gunfire,

including one man who was shot in the head.

In the Philippines, police swung truncheons and fired tear gas to break up crowds marching to the U.S. embassy in Manila after a rally in which union leaders threatened a nationwide strike to press for a higher minimum wage.

Riot police in South Korea fired teargas in a battle with about 5,000 striking workers in Masan and nearby Changwon after protesters tried to stage a May Day rally, police said. About 200 workers were arrested.

Police said about 6,600 people were arrested in Seoul when police blocked a rally called by labour groups to mark May Day.

In Czechoslovakia, at least 76 people were arrested Monday for taking part in anti-government protests that broke out during the official May Day parade in Prague. One protester was arrested as he carried a poster of Gorbachev, whose reforms go further than those desired by Czechoslovakia's leaders.



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev stands with an unidentified Moscow girl on the Tribune of the Lenin Mausoleum during Monday's May Day celebrations in Red Square.

Peking gets ultimatum on reforms

PEKING (Agencies) — Nearly 6,000 students calling for democracy and freedom marched Tuesday in Shanghai, while students in Peking said they would march if the government did not recognise their new student unions within 24 hours.

The Shanghai students set out in the early afternoon from Fudan University and East China teachers university and marched to the downtown People's Square. The official Xinhua News Agency said they carried banners reading "Give us democracy and freedom," "Oppose privileges" and "Media must tell the truth."

Xinhua said they planned to present a petition to the local government and Communist Party branch. In Peking, a delegation of 65 students from 33 schools delivered an ultimatum to the National People's Congress, China's legislature, the state council, its cabinet, and the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party.

The students demanded that the government recognise and hold talks with independent associations they have set up during their two-week-old campaign for democratic reform. Among other things, they want a free press, freedom of assembly and publication and an end to official corruption.

The group, mostly on bicycles, first went to the Great Hall of the People. Where it was met on the steps by the deputy chief of the congress' receiving department, Li Zhiluan.

Li, a congress delegate, said he would "convey your request as soon as possible."

The students then cycled to another office, where they were allowed inside and handed their demands to a representative of the state council and the party. Wang Dan, a student leader from Peking University, said the

government had agreed to respond by the deadline, noon Wednesday.

Peking students already have marched five times to Tiananmen Square since April 17, defying police warnings. An estimated 70,000 students at 41 colleges also have been boycotting class since April 24.

After a march Thursday drew cheers and applause from tens of thousands of bystanders, the government held a series of meetings with invited students.

Chinese journalists are rebelling against censorship of Thursday's historic student protest that is a top story in world newspapers but not in their own.

Staff of at least three national newspapers have put up posters of complaint in their offices and dozens have written letters to protest against the takeover of China's boldest newspaper by a Communist Party committee.

"The situation is ridiculous," one reporter said. "We go to the protests, we talk to the students but we cannot write anything. So the students are wary of us and love to talk to foreign journalists who they know will report what they say."

There was almost a total news blackout until last Friday, when a few newspapers gave a limited account of Thursday's march, the largest unofficial protest in China since the communist takeover in 1949.

A Chinese journalist said this change followed a meeting last Thursday of editors of major newspaper with Hu Qili, a member of the five-man standing committee of the ruling politburo who is responsible for ideology and the media.

Cambodian talks make significant progress

JAKARTA (Agencies) — Following a round of concessions by both sides, progress has been reported in the peace talks between Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the guerrilla resistance.

Hun Sen said both sides pledged that as soon as Vietnam withdraws its troops "both of us would stop receiving military assistance from abroad." Hanoi has promised to complete the withdrawal by the end of September.

Hun Sen also told a news conference Tuesday that the four Cambodian factions would meet again in Paris July 24-25 to discuss the remaining outstanding issues.

"Both of us agreed that there

is the need for an international 'control commission,'" Hun Sen said. It could be organised at an international conference, the composition of which "is not a point of divergence. We are not far apart (and) we will continue to talk about it."

Hun Sen said "Prince Sihanouk had a lot of praise and support" for changes approved by the national assembly in Phnom Penh Sunday. He especially favours making Buddhism the state religion, plans for economic development and the abolishment of capital punishment.

Sihanouk had reservations about the design of the new national flag, the premier said in Khmer, which was interpreted to English.

Hun Sen said Monday that the People's Republic of Kampuchea, established after the 1978 Vietnamese intervention, had changed its name to the state of Cambodia.

Hun Sen told reporters the parliament in Phnom Penh agreed on the change Sunday as part of concessions to help settle the conflict.

The breakthrough towards settling the 10-year war came at the weekend when Sihanouk dropped demands that a United Nations peacekeeping force supervise the Vietnamese withdrawal and control the country after Hun Sen's government is dismantled.

Phnom Penh responded with sweeping constitutional changes that Hun Sen said were concessions designed to achieve success in the quest for peace.

Hun Sen earlier insisted that his administration remain in power after the Vietnamese left until elections could be held, to thwart any military threat from guerrillas of the Khmer Rouge, the largest of the resistance factions and the former brutal rulers of Cambodia.

Sihanouk earlier called for a four-part interim administration. He and Hun Sen are now trying to negotiate a more manageable power-sharing arrangement, conference sources said.

Hun Sen said their talks are in two "forums," one between Sihanouk and himself decided more than a month ago and the second determined Monday between himself and former Premier Son Sann.

The anti-communist Son Sann, non-communist followers of Sihanouk and the communist Khmer Rouge make up the resistance coalition. Only the Khmer Rouge were not represented at Jakarta, and Sihanouk said the decision as to who would attend was decided by consensus.

The Khmer Rouge are accused of killing hundreds of thousands between 1975, when they seized power, and late 1978, when Vietnam invaded. Hun Sen, Sihanouk and their allies insist that Pol Pot and other leaders of the original "genocidal clique" of the Khmer Rouge be barred from any future government.

U.S. offers compromise to end NATO missile dispute

BRUSSELS (AP) — The United States has proposed that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) make unilateral cuts in its battlefield nuclear weapons to help bridge sharp divisions in the alliance over the issue, a NATO official said Tuesday.

Under the proposal, the Soviet Union would be challenged to meet the lower levels of the 16-nation NATO, said the official, on a confidential basis of anonymity.

The weapons would be trimmed as part of alliance plans to upgrade the aging Lance surface-to-surface missile, a controversial project has sparked opposition in many European countries.

Further cuts in nuclear arms would be considered after progress was made in recently opened arms talks in Vienna on slashing conventional, or non-nuclear, forces in Europe, the official said.

The ideas were put forward last week as representatives of the NATO nations in Brussels. They could serve as elements of a possible compromise to solve the dispute issue before a summit May 24-25 at U.S. President George Bush and other alliance leaders.

The NATO official said the plan does not, however, offer any compromise on a West German demand that the alliance agree to early East-West talks on cutting short-range nuclear weapons. The United States and Britain have strongly opposed calls for immediate negotiations.

The official described the U.S. plan "as a proposal for a working document for how to proceed on the issue. It doesn't offer any compromise with the German proposal."

NATO officials have been trying to find satisfactory language on the weapons issue to include in the comprehensive concept, a long-awaited blueprint of the alliance's strategy in arms control and force planning. The guide is to be presented to Bush and the other leaders at the summit.

A senior U.S. official suggested late last month that NATO may fail to resolve the sharp differences over whether to negotiate with the Soviet Union reductions in short-range weapons. He raised the possibility that the alliance would not reach a common position in time for the summit.

Such an outcome would likely

lead to speculation about serious divisions in NATO. The Western nations are trying to present a united front in the face of publicly appealing promises by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of defence cuts.

The NATO official said the U.S. compromise plan, offered on instructions from Washington, draws together several ideas that have been put forward in the alliance.

It would take reductions proposed by U.S. General John Galvin, NATO's supreme military commander in Europe, in a recent study of his nuclear weapons requirements and challenge the Soviets to meet the lower levels. Galvin has pressed for NATO to agree to upgrade the Lance missile, arguing that its modernisation would permit a substantial reduction in nuclear artillery.

The missile, which was introduced in 1972, will become obsolete in 1995, military analysts say. It has a range of little more than 100 kilometres. The new one would be extended to more than 400 kilometres, just under the limits of the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty.



Andres Rodriguez

Rodriguez claims victory in Paraguay

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — General Andres Rodriguez, who topped the 34-year rule of Alfredo Stroessner in a coup three months ago, was elected president by an overwhelming margin and his party retained control of congress, returns Tuesday showed.

"We promise our people that we will carry Paraguay on a bright path to its destiny of greatness and happiness," Rodriguez said in a champagne toast late Monday night.

Meanwhile, leaders or presidential candidates of other parties that contested the Monday elections denounced what they alleged were "shameful irregularities."

But one acknowledged Rodriguez's victory Tuesday. "In spite of the irregularities, I recognise that he won, and that it was a landslide victory," said Fernando Vera of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party, who apparently finished fourth in the presidential race. "People evidently were very content that he overthrew Stroessner. He has a lot of political talent, a lot of populist appeal."

The apparent second-place finisher, Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, said: "From the first moment of voting serious difficulties and grave fraud occurred which offend our civic culture and test our tolerance to the limit."

By midmorning Tuesday, more than 18 hours after polls closed, official returns disclosed only 174,201 votes for president and 172,560 for congress. Rodriguez tallied 131,075, or 75.24 per cent, while the party garnered 114,247 or 66.21 per cent. The official returns represented less than 20 per cent of the more than one million people believed to have voted Monday.

Hunger, disease spread in tornado-hit Bangladesh

HARGOZ, Bangladesh (R) — Survivors are scrambling for meagre supplies of food, water and medicine as hunger and disease have engulfed areas of central Bangladesh where at least 1,000 people were killed by tornado last week.

Most of the survivors are hungry and those who have eaten rotten food or drunk contaminated water are falling sick, said a Bangladesh Red Crescent Society official.

The society and several other voluntary groups are trying to help people in Hargoz village and other tornado-battered areas in Manikganj district, 65 kilometres north of Dhaka.

Not a house remains standing in Hargoz. "The village has turned into a mass grave," said local council member Abdul Majid.

"Nearly 700 people died in Hargoz village alone. More than 300 others have so far been reported killed in other villages around," he said. The tornado, with winds of up to 160 kilometres an hour, swept through at least 50 villages over a 260 square kilometres area last Wednesday.

"We had no time to mourn the dead or perform funeral rites for them. We were all at a loss," Majid told Reuters.

Another council member, Ali Hossain, said: "People were blown far away and some bodies were found one or two miles from the village. Hundreds of people are still missing, feared also killed."

He said quarter of the village's 20,000 people were injured. Doctors at nearby Manikganj hospital said they had treated more than 1,000 villagers who had lost limbs or suffered broken

bones. Hargoz businessman Miron Hossain described government relief efforts as "a drop in the sea" and demanded the situation should be dealt with on a "war footing."

Officials and villagers said supplies of food, medicine and other necessities were far from adequate.

But one official said medical teams working in the devastated areas had so far counted 100 people suffering from diarrhoea and denied the disease was spreading.

He also said the government had distributed 40 tonnes of grains, plenty of clothes, utensils and lanterns among the survivors.

Hargoz is almost deserted, the survivors having fled in search of shelter and food. But toys and household goods lie scattered amid heaps of debris, reminders that this was once a thriving community.

Villagers said huge trees flew through the air like kites during the storm. The winds lifted cattle into the air and smashed them to the ground hundreds of metres (yards) away.

"At one stage it looked as though the whole village was being uprooted," said 45-year-old housewife Shajeda Begum. "The next scene was hundreds of bodies littering around and thousands crying for help."

At the village graveyard, 65-year-old Basharat Ali wept as he waved a bamboo pole to scare off the vultures.

"They are here to feed on my child and neighbours lying here," he said.

Researchers cast doubts over cold fusion claim

BALTIMORE (Agencies) — Researchers trying to confirm the cold fusion claim of a U.S. scientist and his British colleague say they found no evidence of fusion and suggested any other conclusion is based on errors in experiment technique.

"We have no reason to invoke fusion to explain any of their results," said Nathan Lewis, a co-leader of a team at the California Institute of Technology, which conducted an elaborate test of the original experiment.

"There is no evidence of any unknown nuclear process," the chemist said Monday during a news conference at the convention of the American Physical Society. "At this point, we can find no evidence of anything except conventional chemistry."

On March 23, Utah professor B. Stanley Pons and Martin Fleischmann of England's University of Southampton, reported they had achieved nuclear fusion using a table top experiment at room temperatures.

Pons claimed fusion reactions had taken place in an electroche-

The device used two electrodes, one made of platinum and one of palladium, that were immersed in a flash of deuterium oxide, or heavy water.

He said that when electrical current was applied to the electrodes, nuclei of deuterium were forced into the metal structure of the palladium. Eventually, he said, the nuclei were forced so close together that they fused.

When the fusion occurred, Pons said, the device produced four times more heat than was required to operate the experiment. He later said the ratio of heat produced to heat expended could be up to 8-to-1.

Lewis said he and a group of other Caltech scientists, including physicist Charles Barnes, devoted weeks to a series of carefully measured experiments in an effort to confirm the Utah findings.

But he said every effort came up negative. Fleischmann had agreed to attend the meeting but cancelled last week, saying he was overextended.

"We have seen no evidence whatsoever for nuclear reactions

or even for unusual chemical reactions," Lewis told the physicists in prepared remarks.

Earlier Monday, researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) disputed a key element of the Pons-Fleischmann claim, but did not rule out that some kind of fusion had taken place.

Ronald Parker, director of MIT's plasma fusion centre, said the analysis suggested that the data supporting the claim "may have been misinterpreted."

Scientists have theorised for decades that fusion, the process of fusing two atoms together, could produce energy to serve all the world's needs with sea water. However, it has long been thought that fusion can only be achieved at temperatures approaching those found on the surface of the sun.

Pons and Fleischmann said in March they had achieved fusion at room temperature in an experiment they set up in a basement. Since then scientists around the world have been racing to reproduce the experiment with mixed results.

COLUMN

Mountain bicycles help fight crime

SEATTLE (AP) — Police officers in the American west are taking to the streets on mountain bicycles to combat crime. "We've found (bicycles) to be quite the urban crime fighter," said officer Paul Grady. Grady and his partner, Pete Rossen, pioneered the use of bikes two years ago. As of June 1, Grady said 20 Seattle officers will be on two-wheelers rather than behind the wheel of a patrol car. "You see (criminals) at the end of an alley, and they disappear before you can always get to them. We thought of using bikes when it seemed there just had to be a way to get at them faster," Grady said. "And on a bike, criminals don't know when or where you might appear on your beat." Others apparently agree. Some police departments in California, Texas, Washington State and Victoria, British Columbia, have started their own bike detachments. The idea is a money-saver in Seattle. The start-up cost is about \$1,000 per officer, and equipping Seattle's 20-man unit cost less than two squad cars, Grady said. Paul Wooten of the Tacoma, Washington, police said his department plans to put two officers on bicycles in the downtown area later in May.

Multiple puppy love hits Mrs. Bush

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. First Lady Barbara Bush has been smitten by six cases of puppy love. That's how many puppies that first dog Millie gave birth to about a month ago. "I have not named the puppies," Mrs. Bush wrote in this month's Life magazine. "I know them intimately, but I don't want to give them names and get attached because I want everyone who gets one to name his or her puppy." The English Springer Spaniel is a dog without bad habits, the first lady notes. "I never had a girl dog before. I bad boy dogs all my married life. George loves Millie, but she is attached to me," Mrs. Bush says. "She gets White House table scraps when the president slips them to her. He gives her showers — how else do you wash your dog? Every week or two, we climb right in the shower with our dog." Clean or not, there won't be any more puppies during the Bush tenure at the White House. "She won't have any more puppies, not because of her age (she's only 3), but because I think you can ask a household to do this only once. I would like more if I lived privately," Mrs. Bush said.

Rush on for 'WHO' concert

NEW YORK (AP) — The smell of marijuana wafted through the air, and plenty of iced beer was on hand as about 2,000 people lined up to buy tickets for the WHO's reunion concert. During the weekend, some fans huddled under small tents, braved rain and chilly temperatures outside Radio City Music Hall for a shot at the tickets, priced from \$75 to \$2,000. Amy Yankowitz, a legal secretary, claimed the first spot in line by getting there Friday night. She slept through rain, chased scalpers away from her spot and then learned that the tickets were going to be issued by lottery. Promoters allowed those in line to draw a bracelet from a box. The bracelets, numbered from 1 to 500, allowed the bearer to return Monday morning and claim a place in line according to the number drawn. Each person is limited to two tickets. The British rock band will be performing its rock opera "Tommy" in its entirety for the first time in 17 years. "Is it worth it? Yeah, I worship this band," said Yankowitz, who saw the WHO perform at Shea Stadium in the group's farewell tour in 1982.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	06	46	15 69 Clear
ATHENS	11	82	22 72 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	76	31 88 Cloudy
BANGKOK	27	81	36 87 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	04	39	19 65 Clear
CAIRO	18	64	26 82 Cloudy
CHICAGO	04	30	13 56 Clear
COPENHAGEN	10	50	15 59 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	04	39	18 64 Cloudy
GENEVA	06	42	15 59 Clear
HONG KONG	22	78	26 78 Rain
ISTANBUL	14	57	22 72 Clear
LONDON	11	52	20 66 Clear
LOS ANGELES	14	58	24 75 Clear
MADRID	08	43	28 73 Clear
MEXICO	26	79	43 110 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	77	29 83 Cloudy
MONTREAL	08	44	10 50 Cloudy
MOSCOW	09	48	24 75 Clear
NEW DELHI	21	69	39 103 Cloudy
NEW YORK	10	50	19 64 Cloudy
PARIS	07	45	29 84 Cloudy
ROME	06	45	18 64 Clear
TOKYO	12	54	21 70 Clear
VIENNA	09	43	12 54 Cloudy

ANKARA (R) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, will pay a one-day visit to Ankara May 12, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. "Prince Charles will meet President Kenan Evren and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during the private visit," Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said. He gave other details.

SEOUL (AP) — A North Korean agent has filed an appeal of her sentence to be hanged for blowing up a South Korean airliner and killing all 115 people on board, contending the sentence was too harsh. Lawyers for Kim Hyon Hui said an appeal was filed with the Seoul appellate court after she gave her consent. Attorney Ahn Dong-II said the death sentence was excessive because Kim had cooperated with South Korean authorities. The 27-year-old Kim had considered not appealing the death sentence, but changed her mind at the urging of her lawyers, they said. Kim had said during her trial that she wanted to die to atone for the deaths of the plane victims. Last Tuesday, a court sentenced Kim to death after she admitting planting a time bomb on a Korean Air Lines jet

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